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THE MAGAZINE OF ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY

STATE

IllinoisState.edu SPRING 2021



Time to reflect

As he approaches retirement, President Larry Dietz exudes an attitude of gratitude for opportunities to serve at Illinois State. His career in higher education spanned 50 years.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Susan Marquardt Blystone '84, M.S. '03

ALUMNI EDITOR

Rachel Kobus '09, M.S. '11

LEAD DESIGNERS

Dave Jorgensen, M.S. '03

Michael Mahle

DESIGNERS

Jeff Higgerson '92

Sean Thornton '00, M.S. '17

Evan Walles '06

WEB EDITOR

Kevin Berseff, MBA '17

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Michelle Hassel

Lyndsie Schlink '04

PRODUCTION COORDINATOR

Tracy Widgren '03, M.S. '15

WRITERS

Kate Arthur

Nick Erickson

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FirstWord

I learned invaluable life lessons as a youth on my family's dairy farm in the southern Illinois community of DeSoto. Growing up on the 163 acres obtained by my father's ancestors in 1863 instilled in me the value of treasuring legacy, continuing tradition, and engaging in hard work. I grasped early on the need to be responsible, work within a productive unit, and be an optimist with faith in the future.

Those formative years became the foundation upon which I built a career as a higher education administrator. While I opted for a professional path that veered from farming, I continued to see myself as one who planted seeds for the future by

helping others learn and evolve in their chosen field as they pursued their passion.

I also gained an appreciation for navigating through different seasons, each of which brings its own challenges and rewards. There are certainly cycles in education, from the start of the fall semester through to spring commencement ceremonies. The rhythm of learning and teaching is consistently interrupted by events beyond control, be it a pandemic, budget crisis, or national debate on divisive issues that demand a campus response.

In January, I marked 50 years of working in higher education. Throughout those decades, I served in three states and at four institutions. I have had the joy of helping to nurture students as they reach their poten-

tial and become engaged citizens. I have had the challenge of guiding institutions through unexpected difficulties.

I did so at Illinois State by partnering with a team of exceptional leaders, faculty, staff, alumni, and donors to keep the University moving onward and upward. I would be remiss if I did not also note that my dedicated and enthusiastic wife, Marlene, has tirelessly kept me anchored and energized as she too served the University.

I will leave my Hovey Hall office in June to begin retirement grateful for the work that has been accomplished and confident in the University's future. Marlene and I will remain ambassadors for the University and encourage you to do the same.

One of the greatest personal rewards of my term as ISU's 19th president has been the opportunity to develop friendships with so many individuals who have a strong campus connection. From current students to donors who graduated decades ago, I have gained an eternal appreciation for the traits that define what it means to be a Redbird. Stay true to those values, regardless of your season in life.

Go You Redbirds!

Larry H. Dietz, Ph. D.
President, Illinois State University

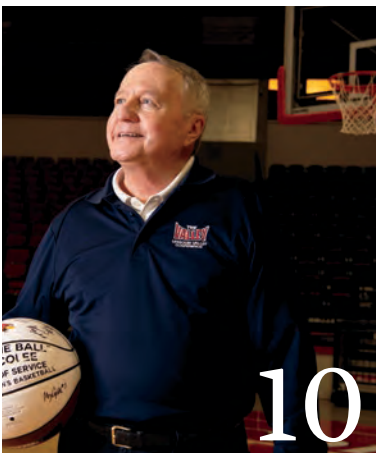


ILLINOIS STATE
UNIVERSITY

Illinois' first public university

STATE

Volume 21, Number 3, Spring 2021



10 Unique cheerleader

Dave Colee '72, M.S. '82, has been the voice of the women's basketball program for 24 years. He retires from his volunteer role as an exceptional public announcer with gratitude for friendships forged along with endless Redbird memories.

17 Shifting with shoppers

Sandy Shelton '90 has overseen millions in merchandise sales working with retail chain stores. Now a district manager for Barnes & Noble College, she is energized by the opportunities that exist as consumers increasingly embrace shopping by e-commerce.

20 A call for change

Protests across the country have sparked difficult conversations about racism—a subject many do not understand, know how to explore, or perhaps even care to examine. Campus leaders share advice to help everyone join the fight for equity.

26 A lifetime of leading

President Larry Dietz has pursued his passion to strengthen higher education programs for 50 years, empowering students on their professional path. He will retire this year, leaving Illinois State strong and stable.

29 Planting seeds of change

When founded in the 1900s, the Department of Agriculture focused on preparing farmers to work the soil. Today's program boasts a nearly 100 percent placement rate for students with diverse passions that include partnering to save the planet.

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On the cover: After a decade at ISU and seven years as president, Dr. Larry Dietz will retire from the University June 30.



ISU, Chicago schools partner for teacher prep

Illinois State has taken the next step in a long-term strategy to prepare quality teachers who are committed to entering Chicago Public Schools (CPS) by launching the Teach Chicago Tomorrow initiative.

The program is one component of the College of Education's CommuniTeach endeavor, which will develop teachers who complete their education locally and then teach in their own communities. It was announced by President Larry Dietz and Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot, *above*. CPS teacher Daniel Jackson '18 also attended.

"We at ISU look forward to working with our partners to create an innovative teacher education program that prepares quality teachers for the City of Chicago, teachers who reflect the population of one of the most wonderfully diverse cities in the country," Dietz said.

The College of Education (COE) is partnering with CPS and City Colleges of Chicago (CCC) to create an innovative teacher education program that prepares Chicago students to teach in their local schools.

After high school, students will enroll at CCC and then transition to a COE teacher education program to complete their undergraduate degree. All courses will be held in Chicago.

Graduates from the program will have community bonds, extensive field experience, and coursework designed around the needs of CPS students, all of which will help ensure that future teachers will be equipped to meet student needs and will persist in the field.

As the premier college for teacher education in the Midwest, ISU's COE is committed to addressing the teacher shortage and preparing more teachers for the City of Chicago and the state.

"This is an exciting program that enables us to bring Illinois State's first-rate education to more students in the Chicago area," said COE Dean Dr. James Wolfinger, who notes that the initiative sets the stage for rethinking how excellent educators are prepared.

Mennonite program will elevate nurses' training

Mennonite College of Nursing is launching a bachelor's in nursing (BSN) to doctor in nursing practice (DNP) program. The addition will address a national need, as only 13 percent of nurses in the U.S. hold a graduate degree.

Two sequences that will be offered are a family nurse practitioner (FNP) degree and nursing leadership and management (NLM). The FNP is online with on-campus components. It builds on the college's prestigious FNP master's program, which boasts a 99 percent pass rate on the national certification exam. The NLM sequence is fully online. *U.S. News & World Report* consistently ranks MCN's online programs among the best in the nation.

"This program builds on what we as a college already know: Nurses are brilliant, hardworking, caring individuals who play a critical role in reshaping and improving health in our communities and are more than capable of earning an advanced degree," said Associate Dean for Academic Support Janeen Mollenhauer.

"We are dedicated to building programs that eliminate barriers for working adult learners and make the journey to an advanced degree imaginable, actionable, and achievable."

Physics teacher prep is nationally ranked

The American Physical Society (APS) and the American Association of Physics Teachers (AAPT) honored Illinois State as one of only eight institutions in the nation to graduate five or more highly qualified physics teachers in the 2019-2020 academic year.

The University graduated seven physics teachers in the timeframe to earn the award known as "The 5+ Club" from the Physics Teacher Education Coalition, which is a joint project of APS and AAPT.

Illinois State tied with Rutgers and Brigham Young University for the sec-



Mennonite College of Nursing is expanding opportunities for students, including Kenny Wiltse and his peers in a class conducted following COVID-19 protocols.

ond-highest number of physics teacher graduates in the United States for 2019-2020. This is the fifth recognition by APS and AAPT for ISU, which consistently has made the list since 2015. "Perennially appearing on this list is a testament to our internationally recognized program," said Physics Professor Dr. Dan Holland.

ISU's physics education major is one of the largest in the country, and consistently graduates certified physics teachers. Such preparation is needed, as only 35 percent of the nearly 1,400 physics teachers hired annually have a degree in physics or physics education.

Advanced software gift used in business classes

Virtual simulation technology is being used by undergraduate College of Business students tackling operations analytics. Their learning is enriched through an \$840,000 grant from Simio LLC, which provided the software that better prepares students for the workplace.

Simio's simulation creates a model of system behavior used to make decisions about processes and building design based on expected usage. Before using Simio, students learn basics such as how to calculate probability distribution, which is the idea that customers enter a space based on mathematical probability. The program provides a visual representation of these mathematical undercurrents using 3D animation.

Students use Simio to create, test, and solve a problem of their choosing. One group examined how hospitals can operate more efficiently and effectively during a pandemic.

The simulation modeling provides a risk-free setting for experimentation and innovation with results that are easy to interpret, verify, and communicate. Businesses can tweak data inputs until they reach a desired outcome. Managers can reflect on a variety of scenarios before customers, patients, or capital investments enter the mix.

Professor ties humanity to study of mathematics

Mathematics ties together humanity's aspirations. This is the message of math professor Dr. Sunil Chebolu, who states that "to study the history of mathematics is to study what compels us as humans."

Chebolu teaches a history of mathematics course that is a global tour from ancient civilizations through the Middle Ages and on to the Renaissance, Newtonian mathematics, and modern thought. Doing so reveals how the Mayans adhered to celestial bodies when building and religion became a driving force in ancient Indian mathematics that shaped rhythms in Sanskrit poetry.

These examples show math is best appreciated from a historical perspective. Chebolu draws on his research and professional connections with international scholars who join in online lectures that challenge primarily math education students to ponder philosophical topics.

Questions posed include: Is mathematics invented or discovered? Is music unconscious arithmetic? How can

educators make math more exciting and fun? The goal is for students to examine how mathematics has always reflected the beliefs of past civilizations and how social and economic factors impact the continued study of math across the globe today.

Center receives millions to help students achieve

The College of Education's Center for the Study of Education Policy (CSEP) has been awarded a two-year, \$4.3 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The funds will bolster the center's efforts to increase principal effectiveness in performance areas that result in improved student achievement.

The work will continue through the Together Everyone Achieves More Through Integrated Leadership (TEAM Lead) project. Its goal is to lift students in high-need schools by empowering principals as strong instructional leaders who engage teachers in activities focused on improving instructional quality.

There are nearly 100 public and private high-need schools across Illinois involved. Four regional offices of education, a network of Catholic schools, and three universities in addition to Illinois State are included in the TEAM Lead project.

"We are extremely pleased to have funding to continue this vital work for two more years, and especially during this time of uncertainty for schools where partnership models such as TEAM Lead are of utmost importance," said TEAM Lead co-director Dr. Erika Hunt.

Undergraduate chosen as nation's top college poet

English education major Naudia Williams competed with students across the country to become America's Best College Poet in a 2019 competition. She is the vice president for Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc. and president of ISU's Black Greek Leadership Council.

Williams started performing poetry around age 13. During her junior year in high school, she became involved in Chicago's slam poetry scene. Slam poetry is a versatile art form used to create an audience experience.

She is inspired by hip hop artists, including Kanye West and Jay Z. She also looks up to several Chicago-based performers who share their life experiences with audiences through slam poetry.

"Oftentimes when I write, I write in my perspective of being a Black woman from Chicago or just being a Black woman in America, and I make it where other Black women can resonate with what I'm saying," Williams said. She uses raw honesty to keep listeners interested in her story.

Alumni meeting set

Alumni are invited to the Alumni Association annual meeting at 9:30 a.m. on June 19. It is tentatively scheduled in the Alumni Center. Agenda items include the election of association board of directors and officers.



Dr. Sunil Chebolu enjoys engaging with students in the classroom. He currently teaches virtually.

Alumni who have made a gift through the University's Foundation in the current or preceding year are eligible to vote at the meeting. Go to Alumni.IllinoisState.edu/Association or call (309) 438-2586 for more information on the meeting and selection process.

Homecoming royalty nominations sought

Plans are underway for Homecoming 2021: 100 Years happening October 11-17. Learn about events as they are scheduled at Homecoming.IllinoisState.edu.

Nominations are sought for the alumni king and queen, as well as the prince and princess. Applications are available at Homecoming.IllinoisState.edu/Royalty.

The alumni king and queen must have celebrated their 50th class reunion, have a strong university connection, and be able to attend events throughout Homecoming weekend. Nominations are due July 16.

Children between the ages of 5 and 9 at the time of Homecoming and whose parents or grandparents are ISU graduates are eligible to be the prince and princess. Nominations are due August 20.

Digital option exists for magazine delivery

In an effort to be more fiscally and environmentally responsible, Illinois State is working to reduce the number of printed copies of the University's magazine, *State*.

Readers now have the option of receiving each of the three issues annually in a digital format. An email notification will be sent when the publication becomes available online.

To stop receiving the magazine by mail, go to Alumni.IllinoisState.edu/Magazine and change your preference to the digital format.

Where are they now?



It might have been difficult to locate Dr. Jeanne Morris and Dr. Charles Morris after they retired in 1995. They traveled six continents, all but Antarctica. So why not the South Pole? "That was not on our bucket list," Jeanne said with a laugh.

Charles started as associate professor of mathematics at ISU in 1966. He held the position of vice president of Administrative Services before accepting the position of vice chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs with the Illinois Board of Regents. Jeanne, his wife of 63 years, was a curriculum and instruction professor at retirement. She had major responsibility for developing the University's bachelor's degree in early childhood education.

The two met in the 1950s as college students working at a New Hampshire resort. They attended different historically Black colleges but stayed in touch, marrying in 1957.

One of Jeanne's fondest ISU memories is teaching preschoolers in a program for low-income students. "I was the teacher of a 4-year-old Head Start class at Metcalf, which was instrumental in bringing more diversity there," she said. "I'm very proud of that." Another favorite memory is accompanying the first early childhood majors to Britain for a semester abroad.

Highlights for Charles were his election as chair of the Academic Senate when it was established in 1970 and having oversight of the Ewing Museum of Nations, which included a significant African art collection.

The couple has created an Educational Equity Endowment Fund that supports programs that focus on enhancing the status and success of underrepresented populations, as well as opportunities for students, faculty, and staff in that cohort.

Jeanne and Charles live at Westminster Village in Bloomington and enjoy a variety of activities there with many they have known at ISU and in the community. Their children, David and Lyn, live in Bloomington. The couple speak fondly of grandchildren, David, Kyle, Alex, and Shaia, and great-grandchild Cameron Jeanne. Travel now focuses on family visits.

Jeanne and Charles can be reached at cmorri@IllinoisState.edu and jmorris@IllinoisState.edu.

■ Redbird Athletics



'We will play anybody'

by Nick Erickson

As the phone rang inside the Illinois State women's basketball offices in the early afternoon of December 9, Director of Operations Katie Bolkema, M.S. '16, braced for a call she had both sent and received plenty of times throughout the early part of the makeshift college hoops season.

Sure enough. On the other end of the line was an assistant coach from a school the Redbirds were supposed to play in just 11 days. A positive COVID-19 test had shut down that program for a mandatory isolation period. It would have to cancel its trip to Redbird Arena.

Bolkema hung up, drew yet another red 'x' on the scheduling board, reached out to the business and accounting offices to terminate the contract, and began work finding a new opponent.

It was the fourth official game scrapped. Countless other opportunities, such as hosting a top-ranked team, were axed before they were ever made official. The Redbirds had just one game under their belt, an unprecedented number for mid-December. Nonconference opponents are usually scheduled for certain reasons—whether it be a relationship with the school's coaching staff, a home-and-home contract, or similar style of play to a conference team.

The goalposts moved for the 2020-2021 season.

"If they are in the Midwest and can dribble a basketball, we will play them. That's where we are at," Bolkema said on December 10. "We want to just be running up and down the court."

That has been reality for college athletic programs across the country, scrambling to form some kind of a season while keeping public safety protocols at the forefront of every decision.

At ISU, men's and women's basketball were the first athletic programs to begin competition since the March hiatus. It was a constant challenge for everyone involved, including those making things happen behind the scenes.

While scheduling opponents was its own battle, step one was to make sure Redbirds were available to play. That meant a rigorous COVID-19 checklist headed up by Assistant Athletic Director of Medical Services John Munn.

The Missouri Valley Conference issued KINEXON SafeTags—a lightweight, wearable device that performs quick and accurate contact tracing. Training staff monitored who was in close proximity of who, should an outbreak have occurred.

The women's team utilized that feature early in the season. After a positive test on the Redbirds roster, the SafeTags showed who was within 6-feet of the effected person. Those individuals had to quarantine, and the Redbirds were forced to cancel their first three games of the season. The team wasn't able to work out together for an extended period of time.

"We had four players not in quarantine. We were going through skill work, plays, and anything we could do to keep fitness levels up," Bolkema said.

Even after getting the all-clear to play, itineraries changed fast. On December 3, men's basketball finalized a game at Murray State for two nights later. The Racers are five hours away in Murray, Kentucky, which fit the Redbirds' travel zone for the 2020-2021 season. The team avoided flying, and six hours was the unofficial limit for how far they could bus.

Spencer Johnson, director of operations on the men's team, had less than 48 hours to reserve transportation, lodging, and dining options for the players and personnel. Lo-and-behold, the Redbirds were well rested, fed, and on the court for tip-off that night.

"It can change at the bat of an eye," Johnson said. "I just cooperated with all

my communications sources and with bus companies and hotels. They are already aware of the circumstances, so they aren't blindsided by it. They have been extremely accommodating."

Johnson and Bolkema arranged seating charts on buses and pairings for hotel rooms. Johnson said they usually paired players who have contracted the virus with players who hadn't yet, allowing for that small window of immunity immediately after recovery to run its course.

Normally the Redbirds would eat a catered meal at a hotel or go to a restaurant for a pregame meal. During the 2020-2021 season, teams had specific meals boxed at the hotel or catered

carried over to the court too. Typically, teams spend practices leading up to games scouting opponents and figuring out a game plan. With last-minute schedule changes, teams sometimes took the court without knowing much about their opponent. Coaches instead focused heavily on internal improvements, hoping the rest would take care of itself.

"You try and focus on yourself and your concepts and try not to stress about every little detail because it's such a short turnaround," men's basketball assistant coach Brian Jones said.

People within the programs could only exhale when the ball was tipped,



Head coach Kristen Gillespie and DeAnna Wilson, pregame at Indiana State

in from a local restaurant if the hotel paused its dining services. Players ate in their rooms properly spaced from others.

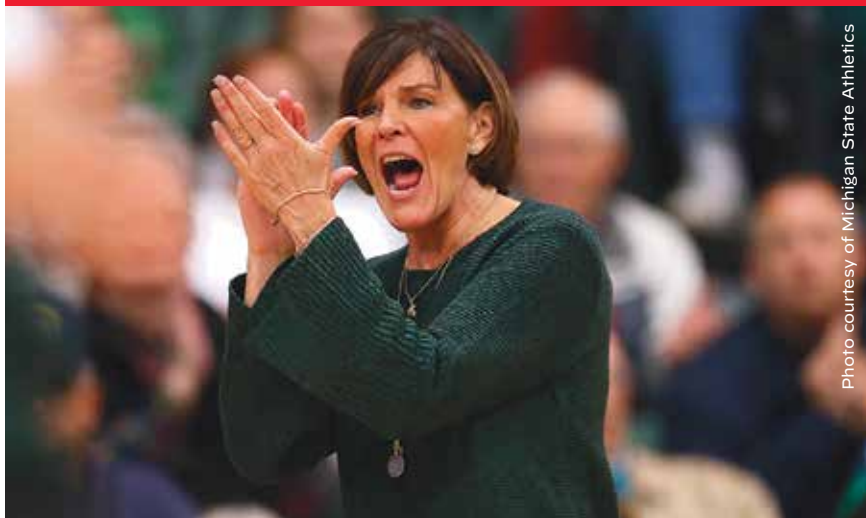
Traveling members got to know the insides of their hotel rooms well. For extended stays—such as the men's team's five-day, two-game trip to Columbus, Ohio, over Thanksgiving weekend—the teams were limited on what they could do off the court. Trips to a movie theatre or restaurant are strong bonding opportunities. This year, those were limited.

The unfamiliarity of the situation

making every game feel special. At Illinois State, it was a team effort through and through to provide student-athletes the opportunity to play.

"There's no handbook on how to handle a pandemic," Bolkema said. "I think we are very fortunate with the support that we have had here."

Where are they now?



Cathy (Olson) George '85 still has her name scattered all over school and conference record books, even though her playing days ended nearly four decades ago. You can't tell ISU's volleyball history without George, who is still the school record holder for kills per set (6.46) and points per set (7.67). She ranks second in career aces (233) and is fifth all-time in Missouri Valley Conference history in single-season service aces with 95. George helped the Redbirds to a pair of conference titles and three-straight NCAA tournament appearances from 1982-1984. She was inducted into the ISU Athletics Percy Family Hall of Fame in 2019.

It's also difficult to tell NCAA Division I volleyball's story without George. She became the first female head coach to ever lead her team to the Final Four when she guided the University of Texas-Arlington to a third-place finish in 1989. She has been the coach at Michigan State University since 2005, leading the Spartans to 10 NCAA tournament appearances. She is 15th among active Division I coaches with 653 career wins. She has the most wins in Michigan State's program history. George previously served as head coach at North Dakota State, University of Texas-Arlington, and Western Michigan. She has been to 15 total NCAA tournaments.

Brennan chosen as director of Athletics

A new era for Illinois State Athletics has begun with the hiring of Kyle Brennan as its 12th director of Athletics in December. He succeeds Larry Lyons '86, who held the post since 2013 and had a 33-year run with ISU Athletics. Lyons postponed his retirement until January

15, which was Brennan's first official day at Illinois State.

Brennan comes to Normal from Salt Lake City, where he served most recently as the chief operating officer and deputy athletics director for internal operations at the University of Utah. He managed the areas of compliance, facilities, equipment, events, finance, human resources and academic support, as well as overseeing the sport supervisors.

He was a member of the Utes' athletic department for 12 years, also serving as the assistant/associate athletic director for compliance, assistant to the athletics director, senior associate athletic director for administration, and deputy athletics director. Brennan also directly supervised the football, men's basketball, men's and women's swimming and diving, golf, and men's and women's tennis teams.



Kyle Brennan

In 2017, he was responsible for securing a \$15.6 million gift to start a varsity men's lacrosse program at Utah, representing the largest donation in department history at the time. He also negotiated new multi-media rights and department-wide apparel contracts that exceeded the prior agreements by \$20 million.

Brennan's previous administration stops also include Northern Illinois University, Texas Christian University, and Ball State. He was an estate planning attorney in Colorado before beginning his work in collegiate athletics. A native of Washington state, he earned a bachelor's degree in political science from Calvin College and earned a juris doctor from the University of Denver in 2001.

Redbird Trivia

The men's basketball team obliterated the record books with a 177-108 win over Greenville at Redbird Arena on December 2. The Redbirds set a pair of NCAA all-time records by shooting 84.3 percent from the floor while dishing out 57 assists. In that game, Emon Washington's 30 points tied the school record for most points in a game by a freshman. Which former player did he tie?

Answer: Robert 'Bubbles' Hawkins scored 30 points against Jacksonville on February 16, 1973. Hawkins went on to play four years in the NBA from 1975-1979, averaging 12.3 points per game as a professional. One of four Redbirds to ever be drafted by the NBA, Hawkins died in 1993 at the age of 39.



He and his wife, Beth, have three sons: Patrick, Mac, and Murphy.

While at Utah, Brennan chaired a five-year strategic planning committee and played a key supervisory role in the fundraising and construction of a football center, basketball facility, and outdoor tennis courts. He hopes to use that experience immediately at Illinois State.

"We want to be making headway on facility fronts within the first year. I'm going to work really hard on that," Brennan said. "I also want to see us increase ticket sales. I think there's an opportunity for us to do better there."

Brennan believes in ISU's student-athlete model and wants the Redbirds to be strong both in the field of competition and the classroom. It was this commitment to academics that made Brennan a standout candidate, according to President Larry Dietz. The new director also has high expectations against opponents.

"We want to win, and it is a priority of mine that we generate enthusiasm and energy in our department to embrace that challenge. Our student-athletes deserve that from us, and our fans expect us to compete for Missouri Valley championships and national exposure," Brennan said. "This is an exciting opportunity for my family and me, to get to work with the incredible team in the Illinois State Athletics Department and the University."

Collins is finalist for basketball hall of fame

Illinois State men's basketball legend Doug Collins '73 was named a first-time finalist for the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, going straight to the "direct elect" part of the ballot.

Collins, whom the court is named after at Redbird Arena, is ISU's all-time leading scorer at 29.1 points per game and 2,240 career points. He did all of this in just three seasons from 1970 to 1973 while being named both an All-American and Academic All-American. Freshmen were not eligible to play



Doug Collins '73

varsity basketball during his era.

The Athletics Percy Family Hall of Fame inductee played on the 1972 U.S. Olympic team prior to his senior season at ISU. He became the only No. 1 overall pick in school history as the Philadelphia 76ers selected him with the top choice in the 1973 NBA draft. Collins became a four-time All-Star before transitioning to a career as a coach and broadcaster. He was inducted into the National Collegiate Basketball Hall of Fame in 2017.

Gymnastics in top 25 for overall team GPA

The gymnastics team ranked in the top 25 academically of all collegiate gymnastics programs last school year. The Redbirds came in at No. 21 on the list of top team GPAs for the 2019-20 academic year based on data submitted to the Women's Collegiate Gymnastics Association (WCGA).

There were 53 teams overall with a team GPA of 3.5 or more on a 4.0 scale. The Redbirds carried a team GPA of 3.69 and had 12 student-athletes with a 3.5 GPA or above to earn WCGA Scholastic All-America honors.



MAN BEHIND THE MIC

Alum builds legacy with Redbird Athletics

by Nick Erickson

With the outcome of the game clear in hand, then-Illinois State head women's basketball coach Robin Pingeton sent star guard Kristi Cirone '09 back to the scorer's table. The Redbirds were up double digits in the final minutes, but Pingeton thought Cirone deserved an extra round of applause from the Redbird Arena crowd that day.

As Cirone got to the table, public address announcer Dave Colee '72, M.S. '82, had one final request for the All-American player.

"Hey Kristi, hit a 3, will you?"

Cirone went ahead and splashed one of her 229 career 3-pointers, turned around toward the scorer's table, and gave Colee a wink.

"I'll never forget that day," he said.

Those who know Colee best would say it's no surprise he was the first person Cirone turned to after a momentous 3-point basket. That's how much he's meant to the women's basketball program the past 24 years.

Colee has developed hundreds of personal relationships with players, coaches, and fans while emphatically providing a home-court advantage with his enthusiasm behind the microphone. After nearly a quarter-century as the arena voice for the Redbird women's basketball team, Colee retired when he finished calling the final two home games in February.

He made the job completely his own, pouring his heart and soul into every word. He did more than study the script meticulously. Colee made a point of getting to know every player who came through the program, and he stayed connected with everyone once they left for other endeavors.

"He's been the best thing that's ever happened to our women's sports programs at ISU," said former coach Jill Hutchison, M.S. '69, who was head of the program when Colee began calling games in 1997.



Dave Colee has spent nearly a quarter of a century as the public announcer for the women's basketball games in Redbird Arena.

A former Admissions employee who ran the Preview orientation program for incoming freshmen many years, Colee has long been a vocal ambassador for the University. He has served as the voice of the Big Red Machine Marching Band for 37 years, taking the field when the band performs at half-time of football games.

He has forged relationships with band members just as he has with athletes and still remembers nicknames of band members from years prior. His presence is always appreciated.

"It's like when the cool uncle comes to visit at Christmas," said Dr. Tony Marinello, who directs the band.

Colee's voice was amplified within Athletics because of the equally strong connection he felt to the people within that program.

"He's on a first-name basis with everybody, which makes you feel comfortable to begin with," Hutchison added. "He builds relationships by talking to kids and listening to coaches. He's just so supportive. He knows our recruited players and knows who they are before they get here."

That approach made Colee care a great deal about how the team did on the court. Ears would ring when an ISU player connected from deep as Colee loudly drug out the long 'e' sound when announcing a 3-point shot from a Redbird.

"It's really a labor of love for me. I enjoyed doing it," Colee said. "I became more than a PA announcer. I became a fan. I'm a Redbird fan."

Inducted into the Athletics Percy Family Hall of Fame in 2004 as the recipient of the Stretch Miller Award given to a nonplayer or coach whose contributions are vital to Athletics, Colee made a personal commitment to fulfill the responsibility he felt behind the microphone.

Despite his allegiance to the Redbirds, he acknowledged strong plays by opponents. He made sure he had every pronunciation correct and memorized for the visiting team. He felt it would be disrespectful to do anything less.

But make no mistake, he was always among the most excited when Illinois State made a strong move. Assistant Athletic Director for Marketing Zach Schroeder, M.S. '14, has sat next to Colee at the table for years and caught more than a few elbows after an excellent play.

"He's in our hall of fame for a reason," Schroeder said. "He's devoted so much time and a ton of hours to us. We don't provide enough for those people and can't say thanks enough. We need these people to pull off a gameday."

Colee also worked as a spotter for long-time men's basketball and football public address announcer Steve Adams, who passed away in May. Colee credits Adams for showing him the ropes. He's grateful to people within Athletics as well for fostering a strong atmosphere and culture that made working games on cold winter nights a joy.

Colee will trade his spot at the announcer's table next year for opportunities to travel with his wife Sandra. He's looking forward to continuing as a fan—one without a script. He is excited for someone else to have the opportunity to make the role of public announcer their own, just as he did 24 years ago.

Never did he envision being a part of so many great games and exciting Redbird moments. Even more meaningful and lasting are the connections and friendships that made his job behind the mic special.

"A lot of things bring you back," he said. "But mainly, it was the people."



Then *and* Now

Recreational opportunities for students were first provided on campus in the 1960s within McCormick Hall. Services improved when the University obtained the site of a former ice rink on East Willow Street in Normal, *top*, which is now a community activity and recreation center. Renovations were completed by March 1988 and resulted in students having access to space for cardio and weight training, racquetball, sport courts, and group fitness programming. It closed in December 2010 and in January 2011, the current Student Fitness Center opened at the site where Dunn-Barton and Walker residence halls once stood. The building project was feasible because students voted to increase their fees to help cover the cost. Over the past decade, the \$50-million facility has become a hub for students to pursue fitness and wellness. It provides a pool, basketball courts, an indoor track, an indoor dual floor hockey and soccer rink, group fitness space, weight rooms, exercise rooms, classrooms, and 47-foot climbing wall.

A Day *in the* Life



Learning and teaching during COVID-19

by Lyndsie Schlink

The 2020-2021 academic year will be remembered as a time when flexibility and patience were essential to fulfilling the University's mission. Change was the norm, beginning in March of 2020. It was then that Illinois State's courses transitioned to an online and hybrid education model as the coronavirus (COVID-19) spread from around the world to across the country.

Precautions that were put in place early in the spring 2020 semester remained during summer, as fall classes began, and throughout this spring as well. Faculty received assistance through the University's Center for Teaching, Learning, and Technology (CTLT) as they quickly transitioned to primarily

online courses. Students were also provided support through a CTLT website that offered resources designed to ease frustrations as they continued working toward their degree.

The change was undoubtedly most difficult in subjects that require laboratory hours. The departments of biology, physics, and chemistry in the College of Arts and Sciences made the decision to reduce class sizes by at least 50 percent and offer more lab sections. Safety protocols were strictly followed when students worked in the labs, with physical distancing enforced and face masks mandated. Students were still able to learn, collaborate on projects, and continue their research with these safety measures in place.



Ramsey Mallory and Hannah Kutchek, *left*, worked in an animal physiology lab testing stimulus responses to determine what movements make muscles contract.

Divine Nlombo, *above*, used a microscope to analyze body fluids as part of an introduction to clinical chemistry class assignment.

Four nursing students worked an emergency room scenario. They are, *from left*, Knox Jackson, Laney Flynn, Amanda Healy, and Alyson Scanlon.

Class size was also reduced for some courses in the College of Applied Science and Technology. A rotating attendance schedule was put in place for courses that offered a hybrid format. Some weeks students attended virtually and other times they were in-person for hands-on learning in campus labs, at the Horticulture Center, and at the University Farm in Lexington. They were often asked to wear gloves and goggles in addition to masks.

Mennonite College of Nursing adopted a strict protocol for students working in its Simulation Laboratory. Students used an app to verify that they did not have a temperature over 100 degrees and were not experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19 each time they entered the lab. Their temperature was checked as soon as they arrived. They then changed from a personal mask to a supplied surgical mask. They sanitized their hands before entering the building and wore goggles and gloves when within six feet of each other.

Timers were provided to nursing faculty so that students within close proximity to complete an assessment or learn a skill were reminded to separate after no more than 15 minutes. While the section size in the skills and health assessment labs remained the same, the activity planned for each session was cut in half so that only eight students at one time completed a simulation exercise. Skills labs expanded into unoccupied classrooms when feasible to increase physical distancing, and theory classes were taught online whenever possible.



Elly Hagen cared for a newborn lamb at the University Farm, placing it on a scale to get its birth weight.

Despite all the necessary adjustments to keep everyone in the campus community healthy and strong, President Larry Dietz emphasized that the University remained committed to providing individualized attention to students. He praised all involved in making the academic year a success for their tireless efforts.

“Hundreds of faculty and staff members have worked well beyond the scope of their job descriptions in response to the worst world health crisis in our lifetimes,” Dietz said. “Their efforts deserve our respect and recognition.”

Pause^{for}Applause



Teaching with passion and purpose

Brandon Thornton '11, M.S. '16, was chosen as a Regional Teacher of the Year by the Illinois State Board of Education. More than 100 were nominated and 10 chosen for the honor. Thornton teaches special education at Bloomington High School and is completing a doctorate in the field at ISU. He was hired at the high school after student teaching there as an undergraduate. The Rock Island native is a Golden Apple Scholar who was recognized by the College of Education as an Outstanding Young Alumnus last year. He works to inspire others to teach, noting his happiness comes from interacting with students.



Healing by design

Interior design and art history graduate **Heidi (Dahle) Wang '02** received the AIA Chicago Dubin Family Young Architect Award for providing exceptional service to vulnerable populations. A partner in Chicago's Worn Jerabek Wiltse Architecture firm, Wang specializes in research-informed initiatives in memory care and senior living projects. "I am inspired to create healing environments for those who most need them," Wang said. Her work includes renovation of existing skilled nursing communities and creation of new rehab therapy facilities. She researches lighting for older adults, the effect of light on people with dementia, and special care residential environments.



A message of hope

Michelle (Brown) Smith '90 is a visual artist who won an international design contest sponsored by Ralph Lauren for pandemic relief. She used the image of her son, Micah Smith '17, wearing a mask and standing as the 'O' in the word HOPE that was sketched across a white polo. Ralph Lauren printed the design on shirts, with all proceeds given to the World Health Organization for COVID-19 expenses. Smith, who is a police computer technician for the State of Illinois, received a \$500 gift card. The company's foundation also gave \$25,000 to the United Negro College Fund to address systemic racism.



Winning with wit

Less than a year after completing a creative writing degree, **Craig Heyne '20** is soaring as a comedy writer and content creator for the card game company What Do You Meme? Since his hire in July, he has brought in more than 1 million social media followers and been promoted to a senior-level content strategist. He oversees all content for the company and writes jokes for the card games. He has also become popular on TikTok, where he outlines the history of memes.



RETAIL REDUX

ALUM EMBRACES THE SHIFT IN SHOPPING

by Susan Marquardt Blystone

Sandy Shelton would seem to have reason to worry.

The 1990 Family and Consumer Sciences graduate has built her career in retail operations, gaining expertise in marketing, profit and loss management, and operations while overseeing millions in merchandise for some of the nation's most successful retail chains. Among them is JCPenney—Shelton's first employer—which shuttered hundreds of its stores on its way to declaring bankruptcy last year.

The scenario has become all too familiar in recent months. There were 29 retailers filing under Chapter 11 during the first eight months of 2019, which was the same year 9,500 stores closed. Many of those were mall anchors such as Macy's, Sears, and Neiman Marcus.

The past year was equally brutal. Retailers faced a rapid and steep decline in foot traffic during the pandemic. More chains disappeared, including Pier 1, Tuesday Morning, and Men's Warehouse. Other corporations such as the parent company for Bed Bath & Beyond worked to remain afloat by shuttering storefronts. Mom and pop businesses faced an even tougher fight to keep their doors open.

“Sometimes the best laid plans end up being even better once revised.”

Staying in such a profession when stores are rapidly closing across the country does not trouble Shelton. While well aware of the shifting shopping paradigm that has been exacerbated with the onset of the coronavirus (COVID-19), she remains enthusiastic and optimistic about the future of retail.

“Brick and mortar stores were already struggling and anchor chains already downsizing. COVID-19 just forced the accelerated strategy to rightsize the number of stores that were starting to be reduced,” said Shelton, who is a regional manager for Barnes & Noble College. She notes that some mall spaces continue to see prolonged vacancies due to rising rent. The high price to stay in such a location makes no sense when little remains to draw consumers.

“People are not going to malls as they did in the 1980s and 1990s. Then it was a place to gather socially, meet friends, and shop all day,” Shelton said, reflecting on how in the past people of all ages enjoyed browsing and stopping in the food court. “Now shoppers want diversity. They want to get in and

get out quickly, and the strip malls provide that convenience factor. Today, along with your retail, you can most likely find a gym, spas, bowling alleys, medical facilities, and plenty of accessible parking.”

The desire for fast and easy shopping has been further confirmed with the skyrocketing rise in online purchasing, especially during the prolonged presence of COVID-19. “Retailers that already had a strong e-commerce platform in place are those that have been doing well. The pandemic did not affect their business other than to propel it forward,” Shelton said, cautioning that stores must continually emphasize and enrich the online aspect of their sales to thrive.

Providing an omni-channel experience is what the consumer desires. Being able to offer in-store, online or curbside service has allowed companies like Barnes & Noble College to be able to deliver the quality of service customers expect, especially during these challenging times.

Understanding the shopping experience consumers desire and knowing how to provide it is a skill Shelton has mastered since completing her fashion merchandising degree. Born in South Korea and raised in Chicago, she enrolled at Illinois State excited to become her family's first college graduate. She appreciated faculty who helped her grasp the business and psychology aspects of retail.

“My professors laid a great foundation for my career,” said Shelton, who joyfully reconnected with many of them during her induction to the College of Applied Science and Technology Hall of Fame in 2019. She credits them for instilling the knowledge and confidence needed as she found her niche in the retail world that she entered through an ISU job fair.

Shelton attended the Career Services event in the Bone Student Center during her junior year to gain interviewing experience and explore employment opportunities. She connected with a JCPenney recruiter who was hiring only seniors. She went back the following year and ironically enough the same representative was attending the job fair.

“I knew I wanted a career with JCPenney so I marched right up to him and said, ‘I’m a senior now and I want to work for your company.’ I went through the interviewing process and was hired. Thirty years later, I still have my offer letter with the starting salary.”



The job as a merchandise manager was secured before Shelton graduated. She worked at the Bloomington store and in Chicago as a merchandise buyer for the shoe, jewelry, women's, and children's departments.

Shelton shifted in 1996 to Kohl's, which recruited her as the chain was growing beyond the Midwest. She went from an assistant store manager role for the company to become a district manager in 2005, leading 20 suburban Chicago stores with a collective annual sales volume of \$200 million.

"I learned a tremendous amount operationally, from starting a store from scratch to renovating a building and opening a store," said Shelton, who mastered understanding and valuing the importance of teamwork, managing a budget, and merchandising a store. "I learned that success is not about you. It's about how successful the people around you are and it's about the shopping experience you provide for the customer."

She knows consumers want a clean and neat environment coupled with friendly and capable employees. She continues to focus on maintaining both in her role at Barnes & Noble College. Shelton shifted to the company in 2008 and now oversees accounts on 50 campuses, including Illinois State.

It is a point of pride for her to be back at the University where her professional journey began and specifically the building where her dreams were launched, as the ISU store is inside the student center.

Shelton has the same enthusiasm and excitement for her work today as she did upon graduation and is ready for the next chapter as she flexes with the industry she loves.

"Everything is shifting in our lives, including the retail world. The question becomes what does the e-commerce platform look like. Consumers still want the whole shopping experience, so we need fluidity through all the different channels—from in store to online or through a mobile app and curbside pick up," said Shelton, who thrives on providing customers exceptional service.

"My job is to figure out how I am going to create that shopping experience, knowing that the plan will change day to day and sometimes a dozen times in a day. I've learned that's okay. Sometimes the best laid plans end up being even better once revised."

Sandy Shelton regularly visits the Barnes & Noble College store in the Bone Student Center where she works with staff, including student supervisor Crystal Lamas.



IT'S TIME TO TALK.

A **BLUNT** *conversation about racism*

BY KATE ARTHUR

When you are white, you never have to think about your skin color. When you are Black, you always think about it—or someone reminds you—because no one is color-blind.

There is always a recognition of race.

Race matters, as does understanding racism, which has been at the core of vigils across the country in recent months. It's time to listen to the voices of protest and to understand the drumbeat of messages chanted during marches.

No justice, no peace.

Say their names.

I can't breathe.

These words are a call for change that is often tied to the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement, which began in 2013 with a Facebook post by Alicia Garza in response to the acquittal of George Zimmerman in the fatal shooting of Trayvon

Martin, an unarmed 17-year-old Black high school student visiting family in a Florida gated community.

Garza was joined by two other Black activists—Patrisse Cullors of Los Angeles and Opal Tometi of New York City—in creating the platform #BlackLivesMatter. The movement strengthened a year later when another young Black man, 18-year-old Michael Brown Jr., was fatally shot by Darren Wilson in Ferguson, Missouri. A member of the police force, Wilson was not charged.

The death of yet another Black man at the hands of police—George Floyd in Minneapolis last May—sparked renewed pleas for action to uproot systemic racism. The movement has gathered support of major corporations such as Nike, Apple, and Amazon—as well as organizations including the National Football League—all condemning racism and systemic oppression.

BLM is now a global effort demanding action against racism and advocating for marginalized populations. One result of the movement is conversation at the grassroots level among families, between neighbors, and on college campuses. The dialogue is difficult but essential.

Too many Americans are convinced the race divide is closing, deny they are complicit, or are complacent as they let others work to bridge the gap. Some are too timid to show their lack of knowledge, do not have the language, or opt to remain silent, while others wrestle with whether they are anti-racist.

Those who are leading the way at Illinois State were asked what being anti-racist means, and how everyone can work to identify and disrupt racism. Their message is clear: Saying you are not racist is not enough. You have to educate yourself, speak up when it's uncomfortable, take a stand, act, and step aside so Black people can move forward.

There is no finish line, and there is enormous work to do. Change begins with a conversation. Let's get started.

QUESTIONS ALL SHOULD ASK

DR. CHRISTA PLATT, M.S. '09, PH.D. '17

Director of the Multicultural Center, former director of Diversity Advocacy

What does it mean to be anti-racist, and how does it differ from saying you are not racist?

Anti-racism is the active disruption of oppression. Racism is harmful, dangerous, deadly, painful. Racism is alive and always has something to accomplish by dehumanization. Being a non-racist doesn't respond to racism or dehumanization. Racism needs a timely, appropriate, active, and intentional response.

What does anti-blackness mean?

Anti-blackness is a weapon to dehumanize Black people. Anti-blackness says that Black people are inherently inferior. Anti-blackness exists because whiteness has been normalized as standard, right, and good. Anything that deviates from whiteness has been deemed wrong, dysfunctional, and broken. Anti-blackness is the dehumanization of Black people because of their hair, language, bodies, families/traditions, intellect, and communities. Anti-blackness can be seen in all systems and institutions—education, criminal justice, health care, housing. It can be expressed as distrust of Black leadership, questioning the integrity of Black experiences, unfair sentencing in the justice system, at-risk labels for Black minds, excluding Black history from curriculum, hyper surveillance of Black people, and police killings of unarmed Black people. Anti-blackness is so pervasive it can go unno-

ticed. There is a need for awareness, unlearning, and addressing where anti-blackness is active and harmful.

What does it look like to be an ally?

You can't be an ally until you have been deemed an ally from the community you desire to support. The oppression of marginalized groups is constant, but allyship is not. It takes a daily choice to show up, speak out, and make room for voices that have been historically silenced. There are no bragging

rights when it comes to allyship. It must be aligned with humility.

People of color say it's not their job to educate white people on racism. Are they saying it's every person's responsibility to educate themselves?

Absolutely. Remember racism is active, painful, and seeks to harm. It's not the job of the oppressed to continue telling their stories, revealing scars, and reopening wounds to create learning opportunities. There's generosity in sharing personal traumas for the sake of others learning.

Dr. Christa Platt

It's important that those who are interested in learning about racism not solely depend on Black people to reinjure themselves for learning purposes. The burden has to be on the one who needs to learn. Those who are oppressed have to engage in learning. Historical context about race and racism is not taught in American schools. We all need to learn and unlearn.

What do you say to someone who has made a racist comment, especially if it's a family member or someone who has power over you?

When a racist comment is made, you have a choice. For those in the fight and experiencing battle fatigue, sometimes the choice is protection of energy and peace. For those desiring to be allies, the choice is whether you counter the dehumanization of oppressed people. When you engage, be ready for resistance. Be prepared to give people a chance to change their stance. Be transparent about your journey in anti-racism. Consider the conversation an open door. Be informed with historical context as your foundation.

How do you react when someone says something they believe is inclusive, like "All lives matter," or "I don't see color?"

The reason we say "all lives" as a retort to "Black lives" is because as a nation, we have not reconciled with American violence and the sins of slavery, segregation, redlining, Black codes, Jim Crow, etc. The American Black experience is inex-



“There is no finish line. It’s a consistent journey, and you’re always going to have to challenge yourself to become better.”

—GENESIS ROBINSON

trically linked to structural and institutional racism. All lives have not experienced these injustices. Those crying out for justice for Black lives understand the value of every life. The question is, do those who respond with “all lives” understand the value and fight for the humanity of Black people? All lives matter in response to Black lives matter is anti-Black, whether intended or unintended. To align with the humanity of Black people requires a paradigm shift in thinking and cultural humility, which requires becoming a student of the person speaking about oppression. If you don’t want to learn from people, believe, and affirm those telling their stories, this is going to be almost impossible. When Black people make outcry about the value of their lives, you either stand with them or against their humanity.

Can everybody do this?

Everybody has the ability to do this work. It is always a decision, a choice. When you learn that you have anti-Black policies, you have a choice of if and how you respond. When those who are being oppressed share their experiences, you have a choice on whether you believe them. Beliefs always determine action. When racist rhetoric shows up, you have the choice to be courageous, identify it, and champion for the humanity of the oppressed. When you stand with the oppressed, you give others the opportunity to choose well and align with humanity.

GENESIS ROBINSON, SENIOR, ENGLISH TEACHER
EDUCATION

*Former Black Student Union vice president, Anti-Black ISU activist
President of Urban Needs in Teacher Education (UNITE)*

You’ve been very active in advocacy and leadership. What advice do you have for someone who wants to advocate for racial justice?

You need to be self-aware. You need to examine your own biases and everything you have going on and once you get yourself together, you can start to become an ally. I’ve used this language “ally,” but honestly I would say comrade. An ally is the person who comes and stands when I can’t stand, and I need both of us to stand together. I need both of us to be on the front lines at the same time because when we just have Black bodies, we aren’t seen as valued. If you’re going to stand for something, you might be knocked down. You have to be willing to fall. Our comrades not only need to do the research but stay with it and then do something. Move. Have an un-

comfortable moment. Do book circles, do something with the people who you know aren’t talking about this work. Exhaust every resource you have to dismantle the oppressive system that you might have had a hand in creating, or you might have a hand in perpetuating, or you may be complicit in. But you have to have that uncomfortable moment where you are

exhausting your resources and exposing these things. We have a history. Learn from it. And expose yourself and others to understand race is not even real, it’s a social construct. It’s a lot of education, self-education.

Sometimes people are reluctant to be advocates because they don’t have the language, and they’re afraid of saying the wrong thing. What would you say to them?

Trial and error, it’s a process. Nobody’s perfect. This is all a journey. No one is going to become an anti-racist, it’s not a point you arrive at. There is no finish line. It’s a consistent journey, and you’re always

going to have to challenge yourself to become better.

What is the bravest thing someone can do?

Sitting with discomfort is brave. Exposing yourself and exposing others, that takes a lot of bravery. When I’m saying exposed, I’m saying stuff people could lose their jobs for. For people my age, we’re still becoming independent, people can literally get kicked out of their homes or might take abuse for standing up for Black lives. That also takes bravery.

ANGELL HOWARD, '10, M.S.'13

*Coordinator of professional development and staff training,
Student Affairs*

What are people struggling the most with when it comes to anti-racism?

People are struggling with what anti-racism means. They’re giving it a meaning that is only black and white and it’s not.



Genesis Robinson



Angell Howard

It's about policies and systems in place that allow racism to breathe freely through that need to be broken down.

You teach cultural competency. What message do you hope people will take away from that training?

I want people to feel comfortable with the fact they will never know everything about everyone. They must be continuous learners and always show up in any space ready to listen and absorb information from people who may look, think, love,

and believe differently than they do. In my trainings, I use tools to elicit empathic responses to help individuals connect to the experiences of others even in the midst of ambiguity. I consistently see how much of a struggle this is for so many people. They will either allow themselves to feel the discomfort, or they allow themselves to become resistant. The keyword here is allow, which means they always have a choice in what they think and believe. My goal is to challenge that resistance, encourage them to educate themselves, and when they finally read all of the pages that were missing in their history textbooks, I ask them to allow their minds to be changed.

DR. DORIS HOUSTON

*Interim assistant to the president for diversity and inclusion
Chair, president's Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Council*

Confronting racism can be difficult. What advice do you have for challenging it?

Those of us who have committed to having the courage to confront racism, whether that's in our own families or our friends or our colleagues, really need to start with the expectation that it is uncomfortable. If we're committed to anti-racism and social justice, everyone may not be on board. However, we as a society need a deeper understanding of how our daily lives are affected by privilege. There are those who have the privilege to walk in a store without being followed, to jog or drive the streets without fear, or to apply for a home loan without being denied due to the color of their skin. Unfortunately there are those in our society who remain resistant to that truth, and it takes courage to stand firm in the values of social justice—particularly when we are communicating with close friends or family members. Nevertheless, we are called upon to build bridges when we can, and set boundaries when we must.

What do you have to have as an individual to do this work?

We can't make changes unless we have a critical self-reflection about our own privilege, our own unearned advantages, and the biases we hold. It's something that's ongoing, it's not one and done. We have to commit to learning our history of our country, of society, and learning how those systems of oppression advantaged some groups over others economically, educationally, politically and socially. That's a lot of work to do that, to commit to social justice, to put ourselves out there so we are engaging with individuals from diverse backgrounds,

developing friendships, asking other people to mentor us and teach us. It really is a full transformation of how we move through the world.



Dr. Doris Houston

What else is critical?

The partnership and support of community leaders. Sometimes we keep ourselves in a bubble, but we are members of the community. We need to do our role as contributors to the community and also allow the community to be able to support us, groups like the NAACP, Not in Our Town, some of our faith-based groups. We need to rely on them to also support our

work and vice versa. Our role within this community—both as advocates for our students but also as advocates for the community at large when it comes to issues of racism, oppression, groups that are underserved—is really important.

DR. TOURÉ REED

History professor

Author, Toward Freedom: The Case Against Race Reductionism

What would it take to have solidarity?

Many of us who identify as liberals, progressive, or woke have come to embrace a number of frameworks that, ironically, undermine solidarity. Solidarity requires mutual empathy. But I think the current “allies” discourse, ironically, undercuts this aim via attachments to stark notions of “privilege” and grievance that tend to presume monolithic experiences and perspectives among members of so-called dominant and subordinate groups. Here's what I mean. It is unquestionably true that, before the pandemic, African Americans were more than twice as likely to live below the poverty line as whites. About 20 percent of Blacks lived below the poverty line, while about 10 percent of whites did. Of course, since there are five times



Dr. Touré Reed

more whites in the U.S. than Blacks, the number of whites who lived below the poverty line was twice the number of Blacks in poverty. Likewise, if 22 percent of Blacks lived below the poverty line, then nearly 80 percent of Blacks lived above it. Despite the complex realities, though, we tend to think of Blacks as a monolithically poor, oppressed group and whites as monolithically wealthy and privileged. Because our discourse on inequality centers on race at the near total exclusion of class, we tend

to gloss over the things that the masses of Black, brown, and white people have in common. If we really want to build solidarity, we need to approach each other with empathy rooted, at least in part, in the common ground we share.

“If we really want to build solidarity, we need to approach each other with empathy.”

—DR. TOURÉ REED

What does leadership look like when it comes to anti-racism?

This is complicated for me, because I’m not entirely sold on the framework. First, there is a ubiquitous discourse on training leaders that just seems fundamentally anti-democratic to me. We shouldn’t be training leaders, we should be training responsible citizens. Second, racism is a real problem. But even though I’ve dedicated my intellectual life to understanding and fighting racial inequality, I wouldn’t describe that project as “anti-racism.” Instead, I see the important struggle as ending material deprivation for Blacks. What isn’t likely to yield a lot of progress is trying to challenge racial inequality or even “racism” by saying: ‘Even though we’ve never met before, I know, because you’re white, you’re privileged and you suffer from the original sin of implicit bias. So, we’re gonna grant you absolution through anti-racism training and public testimony.’ If all we want is self-affirmation, the above is a reasonable approach. But if the charge is persuasion, then the above gospel won’t reach much beyond the choir. Rather than identifying or training leaders to fight racism, the better course of action would be to train organizers to educate people about the sources of racial inequality. This would help build solidarity.

WHAT NEEDS TO HAPPEN AT ISU?

DR. PLATT

What steps can we take to become an anti-racist university?

We have to actively disrupt the systems, not fix people. Who’s to say that oppressed people need to be fixed? We need to address the system that is oppressing them. That’s one of the greatest needs to be an anti-racist institution—switching our framework, hearts, and minds that we are not here to fix people. We are a historically white institution. We are built on a foundation that needs to be disrupted. You have to examine your work, policies, written practices, and unwritten rules. This takes work. We have to be willing.

Where is ISU in that process?

We are positioned to love Illinois State enough to be critical about where we need to actively disrupt oppression and elevate addressing the needs of our students who are making outcries to be heard, seen, and valued. We can love this institution enough to say we must do better.

The new Multicultural Center is set to open this year. What changes will that bring to campus?

We have an opportunity to help the campus move from being a multicultural institution to anti-racist. Having the physical space is important because the students asked for it, and it will create many opportunities for community. Our goal is to support our campus in embracing what it means to be an anti-racist community committed to justice and equity. It is a large assignment, but what an honor to be a part of something that is so important to ISU’s students and mission. There are opportunities to be a proactive center that teaches, trains, and engages in the work of anti-racism. That’s exciting to me.

GENESIS ROBINSON

You went to a college prep high school recognized for having the highest graduation rate of any high school in Chicago, with 88 percent going to college. How was your transition to the classroom here?

There was a disconnect with higher education in general for me. I felt like I did have to work twice, sometimes three times as hard as my non-Black peers because of stereotypes and microaggressions. I would be in class and I was looked to for some type of cultural insight. Say we were talking about high-needs schools, which we know are predominately students of color, I’d be looked to. And I’m like, ‘I’m a student. I have questions too, just like you all.’ I had a roommate who was a

different race than me and she thought it was OK to say the “N” word. I went to Illinois State to further my education and the person who I was randomly placed in a room with is using racial slurs against me. What do I even do? I was just confused. I shared with her that this doesn’t make me feel comfortable. She didn’t understand why because it was just a word, and that caused me more trauma.

You arrived on campus in 2017. Have you noticed progress in the last four years?

I have but I would call it performative, I wouldn’t call it liberating for Black students. I wouldn’t call it equitable yet. I don’t want to discredit the administration and say they’re not doing anything, but they’re not doing enough. We’re only saying this because we care.

ANGELL HOWARD

What do we have to do as a university?

We have to speak it out, we have to stop avoiding it, and we have to admit that we’re not perfect. If we really want to create change and be different, then we’ve got to say, ‘Hey, we know we need some work. We’re listening, and we are working very hard to get it right.’ That’s being honest. We must not be performative and move beyond “low-hanging fruit.” There are some issues and policies that need time and energy to dismantle. If we stay focused on low-hanging fruit, then we will never get to what is really needed to see true and sustainable change.

In my trainings, I often have people tell me that they fear doing and saying the wrong things. I tell them that they have to stop waiting to be perfect to stand up for what is right. None of us will ever be perfect. The only way you’re going to learn what to say and what to do is to do it and when you make a mistake, take the correction and keep going. We are willing to do this with everything else in life except this. We’ll test out roller skating or running, and we’ll keep on doing it until we get stronger and better, but we don’t do that when it comes to justice and humanity. We have to keep doing it until we get it right.

Who has to lead this effort?

We of course need our institutional leaders to lead by example and show themselves to be working diligently toward being anti-racist individuals who aspire to have an anti-racist institution. But we also have many great anti-racist staff and faculty on this campus doing some amazing work. Institutional leaders must acknowledge, collaborate, protect, and support them.

What is your hope for the next generation of students?

The next generation, they’re ready to do it, they’re ready to fight. We have to equip them with historical knowledge, so

they completely understand what and who they are fighting. I am very proud of our students who are coming together to fight for change.

DR. HOUSTON

What do we need to commit to in order to move forward in becoming an anti-racist campus?

We have to face the difficult truth about systemic racism in our society, and we are a part of that society. Our faculty, our students, and our staff come to this campus as members of a society where we have learned racist views from our own upbringing, not having the full truth and understanding about our country and its history and the privileges and advantages that white European immigrants had. If we don’t acknowledge that and how it continues to play out, then our efforts will frankly be really superficial.

We have to also examine our role as an institution of keeping those systems of oppression in place, for example, like tenure and promotion decisions, hiring practices, student support efforts, and our role within the larger Bloomington-Normal community. As human beings, we are naturally drawn to those who are like us, someone who has a similar background, may have a similar world view, or went to the same schools. As a result of that, when we’re thinking of hiring or thinking about what we consider qualified, we tend to perpetuate having individuals who are like ourselves. We really are at a point at ISU we are being called upon to examine our role in keeping the status quo, those systems of oppression, and how we can go about dismantling those.

DR. REED

What can we do to move our campus forward in becoming a more diverse and inclusive community?

Unless one is a billionaire, one person acting alone can never be an effective change agent. However, one person operating in concert in common cause with others can make a huge difference—as part of a movement. I recommend involvement in any number of organizations/groups centered on promoting diversity and inclusion. Involvement with campus affinity groups can be impactful—Asia Connect, Association of Black Academic Employees, Organization of Latino/a Employees, and Triangle Association. RSOs (Registered Student Organizations) serve much the same purpose.

One of the nice things about working at ISU is that upper administration—going back to when Dr. David Strand was president—has long been invested in making the University more hospitable to diverse faculty, students, and staff. That doesn’t mean that the University has always gotten everything right from the start; no institution ever does. But ISU has been moving in the right direction.



RAISING UP REDBIRDS

P R E S I D E N T
L E A V E S
L E G A C Y O F
E X C E L L E N C E

by Susan Marquardt Blystone



Dr. Larry H. Dietz

P R E S I D E N T 2 0 1 4 – 2 0 2 1

Throughout his presidency, Larry Dietz often described Illinois State as strong and stable. Those same words characterize the man who has been at the University's helm since March of 2014. His service to Illinois State began as vice president of Student Affairs in 2011, which was one of many leadership roles Dietz held throughout a 50-year career in higher education that will conclude with his retirement in June.

"All I know how to do is work. I've worked my whole life, beginning with growing up on a dairy farm," Dietz said, recalling his southern Illinois childhood. He treasures memories from those days as well as lessons learned, including fulfilling responsibilities and finishing every job despite challenges while caring for the family's livestock before heading off to school. More chores were waiting when classes ended.

Dietz applied the same commitment to his studies, earning his undergraduate degree with the help of scholarships. By the time he completed his doctorate at Iowa State University, he was on a higher education career path that combined his love of learning and teaching with serving others. Illinois State provided the opportunity to continue pursuing all three.

He brought to the Student Affairs vice presidency leadership experience from having served as an administrator at Iowa State, University of Missouri-Kansas City, and Southern Illinois University-Carbondale. He still recalls his first impression of ISU after interviewing 10 years ago.

"I knew Illinois State University was a very special place. Everyone I met was optimistic," Dietz said. "One aspect that attracted me was that the values of the institution were known and put into practice."

He became more impressed once in the vice president's role. Dietz observed what he calls a confidence and esprit de corps that provided the momentum and creativity needed to elevate Illinois State, which is exactly what was accomplished during his presidency the past seven years.

"Every day I have been here I have witnessed people going the extra mile to accomplish a goal. That commitment is in this university's DNA. It is something very special and just one reason we should be proud."

Many others were added to the list while Dietz was president. He is pleased by the progress made in improving facilities, including renovation of the Bone Student Center; addition of 80 acres to the University Farm; construction of space for the cybersecurity program in Julian Hall; and cre-

ation of a Multicultural Center that will open this year.

Dietz secured the release of funds for the renovation of and addition to the Wonsook Kim College of Fine Arts. Milner Library renovations were approved, Redbird Plaza developed, space for the Center for Civic Engagement upgraded, and the Esports program launched in renovated space.

The University's core values were strengthened and expanded by Dietz, who created a Campus Climate Task Force to review diversity, equity, and inclusion needs on campus. He formed the President's Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Council and hired the University's first assistant to the president for diversity and inclusion.

"Every day I have been here I have witnessed people going the extra mile to accomplish a goal."

True to his belief that you "plan your work and work your plan," Dietz rallied the campus community and its supporters throughout a campaign initiated to bolster scholarship, leadership, and innovation. Fundraising totals were established at an historical high when Redbirds Rising concluded at \$180 million last year, exceeding the goal by more than \$30 million.

Enrollment remained strong with record-breaking freshman classes and increases in the number of underrepresented and international students. Illinois State maintained its ranking among the nation's top universities for graduation and retention rates. Dietz increased efforts to attract international students, while at the same time strengthening academic options.

A cybersecurity degree program was added and an initiative to establish an engineering degree launched, both of which fit with goals detailed in an updated strategic plan—*Educate • Connect • Elevate*. It will guide the University through 2023.

Beyond leading on campus, Dietz chaired the Missouri Valley Conference President's Council and has served for five years as the convener of the Illinois Public University Presidents and Chancellors. He and the University's first lady, Marlene, partnered with organizations across the community.

Their support of the American Red Cross, Easter Seals, March of Dimes, Marcfirst, and the Illinois Symphony exemplified their commitment to be engaged and contributing citizens.

With so much accomplished, it would seem Dietz navigated the presidency without obstacles. That's a falsehood he quickly debunks.

"I felt angst and frustration, and I certainly did not have all the answers," Dietz said, especially as the University faced unique challenges. The first was a two-year period when lawmakers failed to pass a budget.

"I never anticipated a 'no budget' scenario, not only for us but the whole state," he said, sharing that he overcame that struggle with the help of the stellar administrative team serving alongside him and the University's great reputation. He also tried hard to be flexible, adaptable, and stay grounded.

"Faith is very important to me. What is most important to me is my faith, family, and friends in that order," Dietz said. He relied on each when Athletics staff and community leaders perished in a 2015 plane crash. The three personal pillars were equally embraced as Dietz led the University through upheaval brought on by the pandemic.

"I remember last spring being asked if we were going to close the doors," Dietz said, affirming that was never deemed an option when planning ISU's response to COVID-19. He praises faculty for converting classes to an online format



Marlene Dietz has partnered in promoting Illinois State throughout Larry's presidency, attending events including the Founders Day bell ringing event. Other celebratory moments included announcing the \$12 million gift of alumna Wonsook Kim and her spouse Thomas Clement during Redbirds Rising, *below*, and annual commencement ceremonies.

quickly and students for adapting to the change, as well as staff for providing the support needed to complete the academic year.

Any anxiety that it would be a season of lost opportunity faded as work to advance the University continued. Dietz has spent the last months of his presidency further pursuing the engineering program; fortifying international student recruitment efforts; addressing the Mennonite College of Nursing's need for improved laboratory space; and working to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts. His top priority has always remained keeping the campus community safe and healthy.

Despite difficulties that seemed to multiply by the hour on many days, dealing with the virus did not motivate Dietz to retire. He in fact learned more about himself and found time for reflection that resulted in gratitude for health and opportunities that have come his way through five decades of serving in higher education, especially at Illinois State.

He and Marlene are now eager to see what doors will open in retirement. They look forward to more time spent with family, including grandchildren. The two will remain in the community and maintain strong ties to the University, which they will always promote as loyal Redbirds.

"I am as passionate now about Illinois State as I was the day I started," said Dietz, who confides that his first goal is to control his calendar and take off his wristwatch. Both fit with his decision to end his time in Hovey Hall, which he departs feeling grateful for the opportunity to have served with Marlene's help and support, thankful for great colleagues, and proud of the accomplishments made together.

"It is my hope—and I think the hope of every university president—to leave an institution stronger than when they arrived," Dietz said. "As a community, we have done more than stay strong and stable. We have forged a new path for a bright future."



Editor's note: A national search for ISU's next president is underway. Go to [IllinoisState.edu/News](https://www.illinoisstate.edu/News) for updates.

FERTILE GROUND



AG PROGRAM ROOTED IN EXCELLENCE

BY KATE ARTHUR

Illinois State's Department of Agriculture used to attract students from family farms who grew up baling hay and showing cattle. Now it's a training ground for those who want to feed the world, save the planet, and earn their way into the nation's top veterinary schools.



Dr. Drew Lugar demonstrates how to use ultrasound equipment in an animal physiology class.

The department that was founded in the early 1900s is thriving nearly 30 years after its existence was threatened. An Illinois Board of Higher Education task force recommended eliminating the program as the state's financial condition deteriorated during the 1991-1992 fiscal year.

Then ISU President Tom Wallace rallied with alumni, farm groups, and community supporters to save the program. They argued that half of the department's income came from the

University Farm and noted that the program met a need in the state as one of four Illinois universities providing bachelor's and master's degrees. The department was saved and has since flourished.

It is chaired by Dr. Fanson Kidwaro, who left the University of Central Missouri (UCM) last summer to lead the department. He was impressed by the faculty and students, the University Farm at Lexington, relationships ISU has with



Dr. Fanson Kidwaro

agriculture partners, and the ground beneath his feet.

"Illinois has some of the most fertile soils in the U.S.," he said. "This is the place to be."

Originally from Kenya, Kidwaro served as department chair of biology and agriculture at UCM. His research includes switch grass, using cropping systems management to improve sustainability and productivity, and bio-technology in the agriculture industry. He considers ISU's farm to be one of the department's greatest assets, and would like to expand it for scholarly work and teaching.

"The University Farm is our laboratory. A lot of our young faculty are conducting their research in animal science and crop and soil science," Kidwaro said. "We're trying to work a balance between production, having to generate revenue to meet the budget needs and the research side. We have to provide that laboratory and hands-on experience for our students."

There are 400 diverse students in the major. Nearly half are women

and almost one in six come from underrepresented populations. International students have enrolled from India, China, Brazil, Rwanda, and Ghana. Study abroad programs take agriculture majors to France and to farms in Argentina where they see farm-to-fork production.

Agriculture majors can choose from agribusiness, agriculture communications and leadership, agriculture education, agronomy management, animal industry management, animal science, crop and soil science, food industry management, horticulture and landscape management, and pre-veterinary medicine.

With a nearly 100 percent placement rate upon graduation, alumni work for global companies such as Syngenta and Bayer AG, along with the United States Department of Agriculture, Illinois cooperative GROWMARK, financial institutions, grain and livestock markets, the food industry, animal nutrition industries, schools, and home extension offices.

Senior Jenna McNelis, who is studying animal science, was attracted to ISU because of the department's reputation. She appreciates the atmosphere in the Ropp Building, where the department is housed. Classes are also held in Turner Hall.

"Everyone is like your family," she said. "It's a tight-knit relationship and all the professors, whether you have classes with them or not, are willing to help you. All the professors are setting you up for career success."

“There are 400 diverse students in the major. Nearly half are women and almost one in six come from underrepresented populations.”

McNelis is narrowing her job search to animal nutrition. Through classes at the farm, she’s done research on sheep, vaccinated cattle, and docked piglets’ tails. Between 2,000 and 3,000 piglets are born each year, along with 100 calves and 70 to 90 lambs.

In addition to income from crops and livestock, the farm is supported by corporate and individual donors. Over the past two years, the Illinois Farm Bureau provided \$75,000 used to make several purchases—from a precision row-crop planter to an ultrasound used in animal physiology class. Assistant Professor Dr. Drew Lugar teaches ultrasonography and early pregnancy detection, which helps in making management, feeding, and breeding decisions.

Such experiential learning is a top focus of the department, which also emphasizes the environmental impact of agriculture.



Jenna McNelis



Isaac Brockman

“We are researching cover crops that will help reduce the carbon footprint. We don’t want agriculture to be given a bad name for producing global gases from cows and nitrous oxides from the farms,” Kidwaro said. “We’re trying to be good stewards so we can feed the population. We have to be cautious how we produce our food and take care of the environment.”

Among his goals are increasing enrollment; partnering with departments across campus; and strengthening ties to the agriculture industry, as well as other universities. He would like to see a classroom building on the 23-acre Horticulture Center in Normal, which has 18 gardens and native spaces that provide teaching, research, and community outreach.

Strengthening the program further will continue to attract students such as Isaac Brockman. He is a junior from a small family farm tilled by his father and grandfather. He wanted to study agribusiness and chose ISU after one visit.

“I was in love right away,” he said. “The advisors and professors I met made me feel like I was home. The professors are focused on hands-on learning and making connections outside the classroom, whether that’s bringing in professionals from the career world or experts and sharing examples with us on how to connect what we’re learning with what could be a career for us.”

An internship with GROWMARK helped Brockman zero in on a career with an agricultural cooperative. “It showed me the value these cooperatives have to these communities, and the farmers that live and work around where I’m from. That’s what I want to be a part of,” he said.

There is no doubt going forward that the department’s students will continue to find success as they fulfill their passion. Central Illinois has some of the most fertile soil in the world, and ISU’s agriculture department is thriving where planted more than a century ago.

■ AlumniReport



Octogenarians share secret to aging with energy

by Leia Atas

Redbirds Don and Florence Magee, age 87 and 85 respectively, have been married 61 years. They are more in love than when they first met and feel physically healthier than ever.

Don '58 served in the U.S. Army before attending ISU. He studied physical education and was on the football team. He and Florence, M.S. '74, married in 1959. Both completed doctorate degrees at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale.

Don followed his coaching aspirations and served in superintendent jobs. He became director of a Presbyterian church preschool program after retiring. Florence taught for 37 years, including senior education majors at Illinois State, and retired at age 80.

Both faced the physical challenges that come with aging and decided to fight them together. Don made the commitment in 1981 to do 1,000 push-ups daily. He increased his goal to a total of 11,000 a week and in 2019, succeeded in doing 5,000 in one day. Florence inspired him when she was

diagnosed with arthritis and committed herself to logging a minimum of 15,000 steps daily.

Don walks, does lawn work, and occasionally plays tennis or golf. The couple bike together and focus on nutrition by eating fresh fruits and vegetables while avoiding red meat. The two have grown closer through their health quest and see the benefits as their bodies have grown stronger along with their relationship.

"Because we do these physical things, we feel good. When we feel good, we can do a lot of things, both mentally and physically," Florence said. The two enjoy traveling, dancing, and reading. They also appreciate time spent with their children and grandchildren.

Now retired in Georgia, the two are not letting their age stop them from achieving future goals. They are quick to encourage others by testifying that people at any age can live a fulfilled and happy life with patience, love, and respect.

"Just because you're getting older, it doesn't mean you can't do things," Don said. "Take your time, and you'll get it done."

1950s

Elizabeth (Lichty) Mayes '59 retired as an English professor emeritus from Schoolcraft College in Michigan; father, Elden Lichty, was faculty at ISU; resides in Northville, Michigan.

F. Leon "Lee" Rodgers '59, M.S. '63, is retired; his wife, **Judith (Naeve) '61**, died in 2012; resides in Goreville.

1960s

Judith (Veech) Nelson '61, M.S. '62, worked as a high school guidance counselor and English teacher; student teacher coordinator at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale prior to retiring; past president of Belleville Sewing Center Inc.; resides with her husband, Robert, in Swansea.

Donna (Redman) Little '65 is a spiritual counselor; resides in Sequim, Washington.

Lucille (Tomb) Luxenburg '65 is retired; widowed with two adult children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren; resides in Iowa City, Iowa.

Kenneth Jandes '66 is vice president of academic excellence, American College of Education; 54 years in education as a science teacher, school principal, superintendent, and higher education administrator; jazz saxophonist with the Chicago Jazz Mass Ensemble; resides with his wife, Rosemary, in Downers Grove.

Robert Moore '66, M.S. '68, is an English professor emeritus at the University of Arkansas at Monticello; national poet writing under the pen name Red Hawk; recently authored *The Law of the Land*; resides in Monticello, Arkansas.

Ken Williams '66 owns and operates KLV Enterprises; provides financial training to churches; organist, teacher, and board member at St. Matthew United Methodist Church in Belleville for 32 years; resides with his wife, Linda, in Swansea.

Dan Heagstedt '67 is a self-employed theatre artist specializing in visual theatre; resides with his wife, Laurie, in Lincolnwood.

Daniel Hinds '67 retired after career in El Paso School District 375; served as bus driver, teacher, athletics director, and principal; enjoys RV travel with his wife, **Sara (Kontos) '66, M.S. '86**; enjoys three adult children and seven grandchildren; couple resides in El Paso.

Fred Lutgens '67, M.S. '70, retired as a faculty member from Illinois Central College; continues to revise co-authored textbooks; resides with his wife, Nancy, in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Mary Perona '67, M.S. '70, is retired from teaching; she and her husband, **Dale, M.S.**

'68, met at ISU; parents to six adult children and seven grandchildren; couple resides in Wheaton.

Homer Thomas '67 twice retired; director of athletics and activities at Southland College Prep; head coach of the University of Chicago track club; resides in Harvey.

Don Phillips '68 is retired from Sears, teaching, and working with the Illinois DCFS; resides in Dix.

Bob Rush '68, M.S. '79, retired as a senior vice president at COUNTRY Financial; serves on ISU's Foundation Board of Directors; he and his wife, Annette, enjoy seven grandchildren; reside in Bloomington and Ft. Myers, Florida.

Marion Scherer '68, M.A. '70, worked in television and on stage; authored several books and plays, including the novel *The Cage: A Human Trafficking Thriller*; resides in California.

Connie (Blauvelt) Sweeney '68 is a retired music teacher; resides in Ames, Iowa.

Richard "Dick" Templeton '69 was the first announcer for ISU's marching band; authored the book *Across the Creek: Black Powder Explosions on the Brandywine*; works as tour guide at the Hagley Museum; resides with his wife, Lynn, in Wilmington, Delaware.

1970s

Steve Crump '70 was named minister emeritus of the Unitarian Church of Baton Rouge after completing 40 years in the parish ministry; resides in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Karen Erickson '70, M.S. '77, is the executive director of Creative Directions; a children's book author, she works as a teaching artist, playwright, visual artist and poet; widowed and resides in Evanston.

Diane Hodges '70, M.S. '72, is serving a second term as president of the League of Women Voters in the Park Forest Area; resides with her husband, Judson, in Matteson.

M. Jo Morrison '71, M.S. '75, Ed.D. '87, retired after 34 years teaching in Bloomington School District 87; visited 36 sport stadiums; owns and operates The Old Rugged Barn event venue; resides in Towanda.

David DeMarini '72, M.S. '72, Ph.D. '80, retired after 35 years as a genetic toxicologist with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; taught as an adjunct professor in the Gillings School of Global Public Health at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill; received ISU's 2019 Distinguished Alumni Award; resides in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

Roger Elmore '72 retired as a professor of agronomy and horticulture at the University of Nebraska; resides with his wife, Ann, in Fayetteville, Arkansas.

Kevin McNulty Sr. '72 earned a master's degree in music education and an MBA; retired from teaching; speaks on performance assessment nationally; authored *Assessing Music Performance*; launched the first online music assessment scoring system for band, orchestra, and choir directors; resides with his wife, Jo, in Matteson.

Jeanne (Glidden) Prickett '73, M.S. '77, Ed.D. '83, retired as president of the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind; worked 47 years as educator of students who are blind/visually impaired, deaf/hard of hearing, and deaf/blind; resides with her husband, Hugh, in St. Augustine, Florida.

Daniel Rozak '73 retired as a circuit judge from the 12th Judicial Circuit in the State of Illinois; resides with his wife, Deborah, in Custer Park.

Charles Wertz '73 is retired from Mitsubishi Motors North America; resides in Eureka.

Nancy Hepner '74, M.S. '75, retired after 43 years teaching; spent 13 years in higher education and 30 years at the junior high level; resides in Streator.

Marlene (Jahnke) Hinthorn '74 retired after teaching 25 years at the Cathedral of St. Raymond School; resides with her husband, **Gary '74**, in Joliet.



Making history

Carla Barnes '93 majored in criminal justice sciences at ISU. She worked as an assistant state's attorney in Cook County and prosecutor for the McLean County State's Attorney's Office. Barnes changed course in 2001 when she joined the McLean County Public Defender's Office, later becoming the first Black to serve as chief public defender. She has made history again with her appointment as the first Black woman to serve as a circuit judge in Illinois's 11th Judicial Circuit.

Redbird Legacy



Graduates from the Hayes family include, from left, Carter, Kory, Marla, and Edward.

When Edward Hayes '55 graduated as valedictorian, he never expected to find himself back at the school in the principal's office. But that's what happened, decades later when he became principal of Bradley Bourbonnais Community High School.

The four-sport athlete came to Illinois State Normal University in 1951 on a basketball scholarship, graduating with a degree in industrial arts education. He was recruited to teach and coach at his old high school and earned master's degrees in guidance counseling and administration. He became the school's director of guidance before becoming principal.

"The reason I was at Illinois State was because the coach recruited me, and I'm so happy he did because I got a good education, met a lot of good people, and it started me off on a good career," he said.

His list of accomplishments is long, from being named Guidance Counselor of the Year for Illinois to being inducted into the Illinois Basketball Hall of Fame for outstanding achievements in coaching over 25 years.

But he'll say his greatest reward is his family. He and his wife, Madonna, whom he met in high school, have five children, 11 grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. His daughter, Marla (Hayes) Burns '76, graduated from ISU in elementary education.

"I loved the campus," she said. "It was so very special to go where he went."

She was followed by two of Hayes' grandsons, Kory Hayes '16 who studied finance, and nursing graduate Carter Hayes '19.

Edward is still close with his roommate from 68 years ago, Bob Bryant '62, M.S. '65, a retired Bloomington High School principal. He remembers the day they met.

"He was green as grass, he didn't know what to do or how to go," Hayes said, laughing. "Fortunately they put him in with me and we've been best friends since 1955. We're a little upset with this pandemic because we can't get together."

Hayes visited campus in 2019 with his family, wearing his ISNU letter jacket. "I'm still very loyal to ISU," he said.

Michael Eklund '75 retired after 41 years in information technology; project manager for Fidelity Information Systems 21 years; his wife, **Adele (Castillo) '76, M.S. '78**, retired after 41 years as a pediatric speech language pathologist; 10 years at St. Francis Children's Center; couple has three sons and a granddaughter; couple resides in Glendale, Wisconsin.

Catherine (McNeil) Haab '75 is retired from the Bloomington City Board of Elections; her husband, **David '75**, is retired from State Farm Insurance Companies; their daughters **Anne (Haab) Ahrens '02**, and **Laura (Haab) Loewen '05**, are graduates; the couple resides in Hudson.

John Mackowiak '75 is the CEO of Bomack Capital; resides with his wife, Barb, in Highlands Ranch, Colorado.

Jolinda Simes '75 earned a master's degree and doctorate from the University of St. Thomas in Minnesota; retired from teaching in public schools in Minneapolis, Minnesota, where she resides.

Christine Vandre '75 is the band director at St. Edwards Catholic Grade School; resides with her husband, Daniel, in East Peoria.

Rance Carpenter '76 retired as chief of the Bureau of Community Operations with the Illinois Department of Aging in 2011; retired as director of the Office of Graduate Intern Programs at the University of Illinois-Springfield in 2017; adjunct at the university teaching graduate public service internship seminar; resides with his wife, Ellen, in Springfield.

Rebecca (Funk) Cecil '76 retired as an administrator for Lincoln Elementary District 27; worked in education 35 years; resides with her husband, Donald, in Lincoln.

Jerry Haley '76 retired after 31 years in pastoral ministry in the United Methodist Church; serves part-time at New Athens United Methodist Church; resides with his wife, Shirley, in O'Fallon.

Christ Mekus '76 retired after 31 years as sales manager at McCarthy Bush Corporation; resides with his wife, Susan, in East Moline.

Suanne (Yednock) Perez '76 is the principle and owner of Perez and Associates; resides with her husband, Cipriano, in Irvine, California.

Henry Ziller '76 is retired after 39 years as a property loss prevention consultant for Industrial Risk Insurers/XLGAPS; resides with his wife, Carol, in Elizabeth, Colorado.

Karen (Christensen) Gordon '77 retired as an educator and district student services director; teaches as an adjunct university instructor; resides with her husband, Bob, in Orland Park.

Debra (Torode) Hixson '77 is a recruiter with Hackensack Meridian Health Carrier Clinic; resides with her husband, Bruce, in Manville, New Jersey.

Robert Ritter '77 is a retired financial advisor who worked at Edward D. Jones Investments; served in the U.S. Air Force; resides with his wife, Delores, in Brimfield.

Jan (Hallberg) Scocchera '77 retired from Waukegan School District after 34 years in education; resides in Round Lake Heights.

Calvin Ward '77 is a senior vice president and wealth business advisor with Trust Financial; resides with his wife, Louisa, in Atlanta, Georgia.

Patsy (Schumacher) Wright '77 retired after teaching 27 years in three states; widowed and resides in Juneau, Alaska.

Elaine Cragel '78 retired from serving as a hospital chaplain; resides in Merrillville, Indiana.

Steven Engles '78 is a clinical pharmacist retired from Rush University Medical Center; resides with his spouse, Richard, in Argyle, Wisconsin.

Russell Fitch '78, '79, M.A. '80, is a project manager with Real Iron Works Inc.; resides in Villa Park.

Scott Buckley '79 is a corporate controller with Aeries Enterprises LLC; resides in Issaquah, Washington.

Dana (Hand) Daniels '79 is the Title IX administrator and chief equity officer at the University of Missouri; resides with her husband, Ted, in O'Fallon, Missouri.

Steve Endsley '79, M.S. '88, is executive director of the Illinois Elementary School Association; resides in Normal.

Kevin Pierard '79 retired from the U.S. EPA after 36 years as program manager; started new career as chief of the hazardous waste bureau with the New Mexico Environment Department; resides with his wife, Wendy, in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Kim (McDonough) Zinman '79 is a field service specialist with the Illinois Principals Association; resides with her husband, Stephen, in Park Ridge.

1980s

Fred Bowers, Ph.D. '80, is retired from Spelman College after serving 38 years as a mathematics professor; resides in Atlanta, Georgia.

Scott Kesler '80 is a farmer; resides with his wife, Joyce, in Urbana.

Michael Krickmire, MFA '80, has been teaching more than 30 years in the the-

atre department at State University of New York-Brockport; production manager there and coordinator of stage management; resides with his wife, Mary, in Fairport, New York.

Kevin Moehring '80 is director of accounting and financial analysis for Graybar Electric Company; resides with his wife, Patrice, in O'Fallon, Missouri.

Harriet Thomas '80 retired from teaching in the Chicago Public Schools; resides in Chicago.

Cheryl Woods-Clendening '80, M.S. '85, retired from Joliet Public Schools District 86 as assistant superintendent for human resources and labor relations; worked in education 40 years; resides with her husband, Randy, in Plainfield.

Beth (Landes) Ehresman '81, M.S. '86, retired as a school counselor at El Paso Gridley High School; resides in Gridley.

Carol (Huskey) Johnston '81 retired after teaching 35 years; works on her art from home; her husband, **Lyn '82**, is a field service architect for Allegion; couple resides in Princeton.

James Mercer, M.S. '81, is commercial executive director of Envision Virgin Racing; resides in England.

Jim Paul '81 is a staff firmware engineer in Sony Electronics' image sensor design center; resides with his wife, Linda, in Webster, New York.

Dan Persico '81 is an independent employment consultant and career coach; serves as talent management and talent acquisition leader for Weiss and Company, CPAs; resides in Chicago and Dublin, Ohio.

Denise (Maggiore) Vezza '81 is an artist; owns and operates Studio Vezza Maggiore; resides with her husband, Francesco, in New Smyrna Beach, Florida.

Lisa (Rinkenberger) Walsh '81, M.S. '84, is retired from teaching; resides with her husband, Matt, in Oak Lawn.

James Gresens '82 is a technical editor with American Technical Publishers Inc.; resides with his wife, Carol, in Flossmoor.

Bruce Naffziger '82 retired from State Farm Insurance Companies after 38 years; resides with his wife, Pamela, in Bloomington.

Dawn (Bunger) Angel '83 retired from State Farm Insurance Companies; resides with her husband, Martin, in Forney, Texas.

Brian Kier '83 is controller at the *Peoria Journal Star*; resides with his wife, Linda, in Peoria.

Tommie Roberts '83 is a program quality manager with Collins Aerospace; resides with his wife, Kania, in Cortland.



Rolling with Reggie

Tom Kowal '77 has traveled many miles since earning his degree in industrial education, but he still fondly remembers his collegiate years. He showed his Red-bird allegiance by displaying Flat Reggie during a trip to Cuba, where he learned to roll and test cigars at a tobacco farm in the Vinales Valley. He and his wife, Linda, reside in Denver, Colorado.

Frank Bush '84, M.S. '88, M.S. '07, is an art educator at Henry-Senachwine High School; he and his wife, Kathleen, have two adult children; couple resides in Bloomington.

Lisa Danielson '84 is a Presbyterian pastor; resides in Martin, South Dakota.

William Frank '84 is a DNA research coordinator and technical leader with the Illinois State Police; resides with his wife, Karla, in Chatham.

Al Goodwyn '84 is a syndicated editorial cartoonist with Creators Syndicate; resides with his wife, Marcia, in Locust Grove.

Chuck Killian '84 is the chief financial officer of the Operating Engineers Pension Fund in Pasadena; he and his wife, Mina, have two sons; couple resides in Valencia, California.

Timothy O'Neil '84 is employed by Northrop Grumman; he and his wife, **Jeannene (Cooper) '84**, resides in Stuttgart, Germany.

Cathleen (Wilder) Weber '84, M.S. '05, Ph.D. '14, retired after 32 years as a teacher, administrator, and child advocate in public education; worked as a school support manager for the Illinois State Board of Education; established education consulting firm, Education Lane LLC; resides in Cooksville.

Guy Chamberlin '85 retired from teaching music and band; arranges music and plays saxophone; resides with his wife, Mary, in Ottawa.

Julie Houska '85 is a compliance and privacy consultant for TEKSystems; resides in Naperville.

Julie (Yerem) Stroud '85 is director of employment services at Corvill Inc., a non-profit helping individuals with disabilities; resides in Mishawaka, Indiana.

Dan Blake '86 is the CTO with Aspire Software; resides with his wife, Jodi, in Ballwin, Missouri.

Terry Duncan '86 is a dietary retail manager with Piedmont Hospital; resides in McDonough, Georgia.

Sheila (O'Connor) Liss '86 retired after teaching special education for 33 years in Illinois, including Downers Grove South High School; she and her husband, Ron, have three adult children and reside in Lisle.

Ann (Corry) Peters '86 is a reading teacher at Addison Trail High School; resides with her husband, Christopher, in Addison.

Elysa Robin '86 is vice president of human resources at 1st Mid-America Credit Union; resides in Saint Charles, Missouri.

Susan (Heise) Valerio '86 is a logistics project manager with Quantum Corporation; resides with her husband, Nelson, in Garden Grove, California.

Amy (Funk) Jorgenson '87 is a broker associate with Kellstrom-Ray Agency Inc; resides with her husband, Michael, in Washington Island, Wisconsin.

Patrick McMillin '87 is the director of Energy and Utilities Centric Consulting LLC; resides with his wife, Kelley, in Stilwell, Kansas.

Tammy Poole '87 is the founder and owner of Palmer Tax Consulting LLC; resides with her wife, Karen, in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Eric Sweetwood, '87, M.S. '97, is retiring after 34 years of teaching at Pontiac Township High School; resides with his wife, Jennifer, in Normal.

Greg Taylor '87 is a risk analyst with BMO Harris Bank; resides with his wife, Jill, in Denton, Texas.

Steven Robb '88 is president of the solutions groups at LaSalle Solutions; oversees product development, professional services, and group operations teams; resides with his wife, Viollette, in Northbrook.

Elaine (Norem) Artman '89, M.S. '92, is an education research analyst with the U.S. Department of Education; resides in Waleska, Georgia.

James Guinee '89 is vice president of customer experience and head of marketing with Anticimex Group; resides in White Plains, New York.

Rick Hartmann '89, M.S. '91, is clinic director for Doctors of Physical Therapy in Antioch; resides in Round Lake.

John Jaraczewski '89 completed a master's degree in fine arts at the University of Wisconsin-Madison; is executive director of the Greenville Literacy Association; served as assistant chancellor at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside; resides with his wife, Wanda, in Greenville, South Carolina.

Grace Jones, M.S. '89, retired from teaching; doing volunteer work in Europe; resides in Monrovia, California.

Erik Nelson '89 is a lead engineer in applications for Molina Healthcare; resides with his wife, Debbie, in Long Beach, California.

Troops

Duncan Brown '87 retired as a major from the U.S. Army; is director of human resources and senior manager of marketing for BNSF Railways; resides with his wife, Dawn, in Fort Worth, Texas.

Michael Willis '97 is a member of the U.S. Air Force Security Forces; resides with his wife, Lisa in Cartersville, Georgia.

Lucas Miles '04, M.S. '06, '09, is a Chief Warrant Officer 2 in the Illinois Army National Guard; human resources technician for the 108th Sustainment Brigade, Chicago; teaches third grade at Cedar Ridge in Unit 5; resides with his wife, Cori, in Bloomington.

Michael Wetter '04 is an executive officer in the U.S. Army; served in Iraq; involved in task force overseeing the NCR-IADS in support of Operation Noble Eagle; civilian job as senior team manager with Charles Schwab; resides with his wife and two children in Tampa, Florida.

Devon (Weidner) Wentz '05 is a nurse in the U.S. Air Force; resides with her husband, Luke, in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Collin Seggerman '12 is an AV8B Harrier Airframer in the U.S. Marine Corps; resides with his wife, Taylor, in Newport, North Carolina.

Matthew Hancock '14 is a captain in the U.S. Army; deployed to Kuwait and Iraq; resides in Fayetteville, North Carolina.

Katlyn (O'Neil) Lehmann '15 is a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army; serves as a human resources officer; completed tours in Kuwait and Qatar; met her husband, **Christian '14**, in ISU's ROTC program; couple resides in Savannah, Georgia.



40 years and counting

Six 1980 graduates of the elementary education CORE teaching program have consistently shared life lessons, challenges, and successes since living together in Watterson Towers. They enjoy an annual weekend retreat that this past year was virtual because of the virus. They are, *front row from left*, Romie (Prine) Bloom of Wadsworth; Nancy (Wendel) Neels of Cape Fair, Missouri; and Laurie (Connell) Jacob of Urbana. *Back row from left* are Sherry (Warner) Sosebee of Albert Lea, Minnesota; Maureen (Dowd) Swenson of Palatine; and Nancy Comella of Wauwatosa, Wisconsin.

In memory

Faculty/Staff

Donald Armstrong, Music; 3/20
Elaine E. (Kaiser) Dunbar '64, M.S. '68; Advisement; 7/20
Kenneth E. James, Agriculture; 8/20
Christine S. Kubiak, Milner Library; 7/20
Mary J. Nicholas, Music; 8/20
Kenneth A. Retzer, Mathematics; 7/20
Howard J. Romanek, History; 5/20
Richard A. Salome, Art; 8/20
Michael W. Surma '73, M.S. '78; Laboratory Schools; 6/20
Yusra L. Visser, College of Education; 5/20
Morton D. Waimon, Curriculum and Instruction; 5/20
Dane M. Ward, Ph.D. '13; Milner Library; 7/20
Richard O. Whitcomb, German; 10/20

30s

Lawrence E. Rankin Sr. '35; 7/98
Mary G. (Johnson) Halpin '38; 7/20
Mildred V. (Guffey) Girard '39; 5/20

40s

Dorothy E. (Shields) Peabody '40; 8/20
Florence M. (Harvey) Travis '40, '66; 8/20
Stella M. (Donath) Pevsner '41; 6/20
Cleo L. (Boggy) Anderson '42; 9/17
Mary L. (Weise) Schoenemann '42; 5/20
Bernice F. (Francis) Buck '44; 12/19
Mary R. (Lemons) Mason '44; 9/04
Mary J. (Carey) Whamond '44; 9/19
Dorothy J. (Gillis) Basting '48; 5/20
Frances J. (Withers) Brinkman '48; 4/14
Maxine G. (Kent) Hoxworth '48; 10/18
Charlotte L. (Broaderick) Szabo '48; 1/20
Michael Caringello '49, M.S. '55; 8/20
Margaret B. (Bakker) Dalhaus '49; 6/16
Beatrice (Hudak) Hanson '49; 5/20
Marian E. Kneer '49, M.S. '57; 7/20
Lunetta J. (Dickson) Walden '49, M.S. '56; 6/20

50s

Marjorie S. (Paulsen) Elander '50; 12/19
Ronald J. Hopley '50; 6/20
Kathleen M. (McShane) Kinderfather '50, M.S. '55; 5/20
Ralph L. Smith Jr. '50; 5/20



Whimsical winter moment

Snowstorms that crossed the country in February blanketed the campus, creating a natural backdrop for dance performance student Faith Minneyfield. A junior, she is also majoring in psychology.

Mary L. (Coy) Devine '51; 7/20
Wilma M. (Martin) Hardin '51; 8/20
Doris L. (Feeney) Murray '51; 6/20
Mary (Alderson) Nilsen '51; 6/20
John D. Sleevear '51; 8/20
Jacqueline M. (Fenton) Vail '51, M.S. '72; 2/20
Alice J. (Kumler) Deavers '52; 10/20
John H. Gerzen Jr. '52; 8/20
Thomas M. Kerrihard '52; 7/20
Patricia J. (Kuhn) Lindberg '52; 11/05
Ethel I. (Williams) Snook '52; 7/20
Mary Jane (Anders) Wilkinson '52; 9/20
Juanita (Wells) Cole '53; 9/20
Joan C. (Linenberger) Lenart '53; 7/20
Jewell M. (Opperman) Zook '53; 6/20
Marvin W. Block '54, M.S. '60; 7/18
George W. Eidson '54; 7/20
Robert Eudeikis '54, M.S. '60; 1/20
Glenn W. Gasaway '54; 9/20
Lois I. (Kafer) Stephan McLeod '54; 3/18
Mildred I. (Lentz) Van Valzah '54; 8/20
Kenneth J. Giseburt '55; 9/20
Gloria J. (Hickman) Millay Marshall '55; 4/20
Harriet J. (Gove) O'Daffer '55, M.S. '57; 9/20
Donna F. (Fitzpatrick) Coppenbarger '56; 8/20
Mary A. (James) Graham '56; 7/20

Kathryn E. Hess '56; 8/20
Mildred E. (Strobel) Ounapu '56; 5/20
Claude N. Taylor '56, M.S. '66; 12/19
Mary E. (Boyd) Babich '57; 5/20
Clyetta M. Berry '57, M.S. '63; 9/20
Kathleen M. (McFadden) Coonan '57; 7/20
Payton L. Helphinstine '57, M.S. '64; 4/20
Janice A. (Van Leirsburg) Blevins '58; 5/20
Gene D. Cwick '58, M.S. '66; 9/20
Norma L. (Campbell) Patterson '58; 6/20
Marilyn E. (Dawson) Baumeister '59; 9/20
Rebecca A. (Witham) Blair '59; 7/20
Clemence O. Gangler '59, M.S. '67; 8/20
Heidi R. Mullejans '59; 5/16
Luceille M. (Gleim) Werner '59, M.S. '63; 7/20

60s

Colleen E. (Mauterer) Harty '60; 12/15
Lois M. (Hopkins) Stonebraker Conner '61; 8/12
Joan R. (Brittain) Harrigan '61; 10/20
Mary Lou (Smith) Kiefer '61; 9/20
Dale E. McRoberts '61; 8/20
Carol S. (Rubin) Weller '61; 9/17
Rosalee D. Duckworth '62; 6/05
James M. Fletcher '62; 10/19
Sandra K. (Gordon) Goodpaster '62; 6/20

Insurance plans available to alumni

Whether you've just graduated, are established with a family and career, or are getting ready to enjoy a well-earned retirement, the Alumni Insurance Program (AIP) can help at every stage of life. Sponsored by ISU's Alumni Association, AIP offers health insurance options and several other plans.

- **Dental/Vision Insurance:** These two visits can be some of the most important but are often skipped. Alumni can enroll at any time to take advantage of dental and vision plans.
- **Life Insurance:** Three group term life insurance plans are available to alumni to ensure financial security of family members.
- **Identity Theft Protection:** This plan proactively monitors credit, banking, and medical accounts. It also helps you take action to resolve identity theft problems.
- **Pet Health Insurance:** The AIP covers furry family members as well.



Find more information on plans, savings, and products at
Alumni.IllinoisState.edu/Services.
Select 'Insurance' under the Health and Wellness tab.

Karen S. (McKay) Sthol '62; 8/19
Katherine P. (Norvell) Trimm '62; 9/20
Mary E. (Johnson) Campbell '63; 6/20
Jack A. Crump '63, M.S. '66; 9/20
Patricia J. (Obrecht) Kreibich '63; 8/20
Judith A. Streid '63, M.A. '69; 8/20
Robert Y. Bishop '64; 3/08
Waunita A. (Coppenger) Briggs '64; 8/20
Darrell D. Kehl '64; 8/20
Charles L. Lehman '64; 6/20
Glenn S. Templeman '64, M.S. '65; 8/17
Richard H. Worthen '64, M.A. '71; 5/20
Sheri A. (Buckner) Cermak Bradford '65; 5/20
Jan E. Davis '65; 6/20
Penelope A. (Porter) Jacques '65; 11/16
Jeanne E. (Ashley) Jarvis '65; 8/20
Karen A. (Augsburger) Skaggs '65, M.S. '82; 10/20
Mary E. (Blome) Stafford '65, M.A. '67; 7/20
Gerald J. Stemas '65, '69; 7/20
Carolyn M. (Schupbach) Taylor '65; 7/20
Carol S. (Webb) Voss '65; 7/20
Virgil M. Weber, M.S. '65; 6/17
Randy B. Wills '65; 8/20
Nancy F. Barnes '66; 7/20
Janet K. (Stahl) Cross '66; 9/20
Linda S. (McCoy) Dodder '66; 4/20

Loren "Mick" E. Ehling '66, M.S. '73; 7/20
Robert F. Kern '66; 8/20
Dalene A. (Christian) Sargeant '66; 12/18
Lois L. (Hayes) Smiley '66; 12/19
John R. Talbot, M.S. '66; 7/20
Patricia A. (Fay) Wilber '66; 9/20
George L. Forbes '67; 6/20
Esther Amundson '68; 1/20
Timothy J. Hardimon '68; 5/20
Cathie (Brandt) Huston '68; 3/19
George D. Kridner '68; 6/20
Lawrence W. Lonney Jr. '68; 10/18
Alice R. (Earl) Marks '68, M.S. '73; 2/20
Susan L. Richards '68; 7/20
Anna M. (Inghram) Dufek '69, M.S. '72; 6/20
Douglas A. Ferguson, M.S. '69; 6/20
Ronald A. Foley '69; 5/20
Delores E. Hardy '69; 1/20
Fredrick L. Hasselman '69; 5/20
Gary D. Herrman '69; 6/20
Dixie L. (Gibbons) MaGirl Mills, M.S. '69; 5/20
William D. Pence Sr. '69; 9/20
Mary A. (Tegeler) Richy '69; 5/20
Rodney C. Springer '69; 6/20
Doris J. (Fillingham) Wink-Brown '69; 9/20

70s

Theoni S. Arvanitis '70; 9/12
Cheryl A. Behrens '70; 6/20
David Bowman '70; 7/20
Jane E. (Mazurek) Maher Brannon '70, M.S. '74; 6/20
Kathy L. (Benthien) Cummins '70; 6/20
Dennis J. Dunlap '70, M.A. '71; 4/20
Diane L. Engle '70, '74; 6/20
Michael W. Gibler '70, M.S. '74; 8/20
Elizabeth (Forster) Glidden, M.A. '70; 10/20
William K. Goodwin '70; 9/20
Dennis S. Hazlett '70; 11/19
John R. Mann, M.S. '70; 8/16
Darryl A. Miersch '70; 12/19
Phillip M. Newnum '70; 12/19
David L. Raymer '70; 6/20
Warren R. Thom '70; 5/20
John D. Barnard '71; 9/20
Joseph D. Cheek '71; 8/20
William M. Forgey '71; 11/18
Hazel M. (Skaggs) Hill '71; 11/15
Frances M. (Jansen) Justison '71; 9/20
Phillip M. Newnum '71; 12/19
Frank H. Stone Jr. '71; 10/20
Carol A. (Kimmel) Swaim '71; 7/20
Kathleen R. (Goldberger) Bishop '72; 6/20

Ray C. Denbesten '72; 4/17
 Kent D. Huffman '72; 6/20
 Joseph A. Kinney '72; 12/18
 Susan D. (Potter) Koonce '72; 7/20
 Lyle W. Leesman '72, M.S. '88; 5/20
 Gail A. (Winship) McCue '72; 6/20
 John T. McFadden '72; 6/20
 Barbara L. (Jones) Moore, M.S. '72; 6/20
 Gloria J. Nuhn-Schweinberg '72, M.S. '77; 10/20
 Gail L. (Voyt) Powers '72; 7/17
 Michael A. Russell '72, M.S. '78; 8/20
 Susan K. (Tomlin) Schupp '72; 5/20
 Sharon A (Krumwiede) Van Oosten '72; 9/20
 James E. Wetherell '72; 7/20
 Marjory F. (Barker) Wiley '72; 5/20
 Richard C. Adams '73; 5/20
 John F. Beinke '73; 12/19
 Keith Benson '73; 5/19
 Robert P. Bier '73; 8/20
 Verlin G. Bundy, Ed.D. '73; 8/20
 Gail E. Cyrkiel '73; 7/20
 Charles L. Gierhart '73, M.S. '74; 8/17
 Phyllis J. (Bennett) Glazier '73; 5/20
 Douglas A. Kennedy '73; 7/20
 George "Tony" A. Kleen '73; 7/20
 Miriam J. (Schmidgall) Knoy '73; 8/20
 Edward C. Kretz '73; 6/20
 Elinor D. (Phillips) Monahan '73; 7/20
 Karen B. Ericksen Noer Myers '73; 8/20
 Connie A. (Baracz) Satow '73; 12/14
 Michael A. Saul '73, M.M. '80; 7/20
 Jerry L. Veach '73; 10/20
 Gary M. Vilsoet '73, M.S. '84; 6/20
 Dennis L. Weaver '73; 5/20
 Cynthia A. (Johnson) Africano '74; 5/05
 Marianne M. Claussen '74; 5/20
 Jane L. (Koenig) Crowe '74; 8/20
 Grace M. (Cusimano) Gonzalez '74; 1/14
 Sharon S. (Adams) Lenich '74; 5/20
 Lisa S. (Gravino) Lindsey '74; 5/20
 Michelle A. (McHugh) Rowe '74; 5/20
 George T. Schraut '74; 6/20
 Terry A. Scrogum '74; 6/20
 Jill A. (Munro) Vernon '74; 9/20
 Darlene (Aper) Wiggers '74; 9/20
 David P. Christenson '75; 5/20
 Michael S. Daubs, M.S. '75; 7/20
 Margo (Saxhaug) Harber '75; 12/19
 Thomas H. Majerczyk '75; 7/20



Forever friends

Three young ladies who forged a friendship on the fifth floor of Hewitt Hall in 1969 remain close 50 years later. The trio has celebrated their own weddings and the marriages of their children as well. They support each other through the tough times too and enjoy annual summer reunions. They are, *from left*, LaVerne (Berry) Iles '70 of Champaign, Peg (Goldinger) Singleton '73 of Palos Heights, and Janice (Kuzel) Blaschek '73 of Orland Park.

Daniel T. Sprouse '75; 6/20
 Stephen M. Thompson '75; 5/20
 Cynthia J. (Pantle) Ward '75; 7/20
 Mary L. (Spencer) Baird, M.S. '76; 6/20
 Charlene F. (Hettinger) Behrends '76, M.S. '81; 5/20
 Michael D. Fleming '76; 7/20
 William Howat '76; 7/20
 Charlotte E. Martin '76; 6/20
 Nancy J. (Slabe) Nolan '76; 9/20
 Patricia A. Stejskal '76; 8/20
 Susan (Barker) Wagner '76; 5/19
 Charlene L. (Schmillen) Dixon '77; 6/20
 Christine L. (Ryan) Elston '77; 3/08
 Ilene S. Frisch '77; 7/20
 Mary A. (Emmart) Phelan '77; 1/13
 Mark R. Trueblood '77; 7/20
 Susan A. (Lawrence) Zaiser, M.S. '77; 9/20
 Patricia K. (Lee) Daniel '78; 7/20
 Barry L. Deal '78, M.S. '80; 7/20
 Patricia M. (Squier) Filippini '78; 6/20
 Douglas R. Haughey '78; 5/20
 Paul Martinucci '78; 8/20

Rose M. (Buchmann) Roach Miller, Ph.D. '78; 6/20
 Scott D. Molaro '78; 5/20
 Philip A. Vinnedge '78, M.S. '82; 2/19
 Shari V. (Williams) Andrews '79; 9/20
 Michael W. Davis '79; 8/20
 Raymond M. Moehrlin, Ed.D. '79; 2/20
 Michael Nolan '79; 8/20
 James M. Siddens '79; 1/19
 David C. Warner '79, MBA '85; 5/20
 David D. Williams '79; 6/20

80s

Peter M. Bator '80; 5/20
 Arthur L. Dirks, MFA '80; 8/20
 Michael J. Fane '80; 7/20
 Johnnie M. Johnson '80, M.S. '82; 5/20
 Roy J. Kretz '80; 8/20
 Robert McCoy '80; 7/20
 McKinley Moton III '80; 11/17
 Susan J. Orrick, MFA '80; 8/20
 Randall P. Scheets '80; 11/07
 Edward L. Spires '80; 5/20

Becky S. (Hopkins) Jackson Inman '81; 7/20
 William W. Weeks '81; 6/20
 Devon L. Atkinson '82; 6/20
 Rebecca L. (Buchner) Steiner '82; 8/20
 Daniel W. Wooley, M.S. '82; 9/20
 Diane K. Wright '82; 9/20
 Barbara K. Peake '83; 6/20
 Kenneth A. Ruminski '83; 7/20
 Jean E. (Palmer) Steiner '83; 10/20
 Lori L. (Rapp) Doyle '84; 6/20
 Helen (Naden) Morgan, Ed.D. '84; 9/20
 Janice L. (Azukas) Poppen '84; 8/20
 Margaret I. (Clarke) Rooney '84; 5/20
 David A. DeBoeuf '85, MBA '89; 7/20
 William E. DeSelm '85; 5/20
 Scott A. Sullivan '85; 7/20
 Timothy S. Weeks '85; 7/17
 Barbara J. Adkins '86; 11/20
 William DeSelm '86; 5/20
 Mary E. Felden-Peters '86; 8/20
 Thomas L. Jones Jr., M.S. '86; 6/20
 Joni N. (Paris) Rhodes Shaver '86; 9/20
 Kathy L. Brown '87; 7/20
 Mary E. Driscoll '87; 8/20
 Belinda J. (Wood) Droll, D.A. '87; 10/20
 Craig H. Gathmann '87; 8/20
 Virginia K. (Farris) Nappi, M.S. '87; 8/20
 Laurie L. (Bradley) Von Holten '87; 8/20
 Rodney D. Von Holten '88; 8/19
 Jerome A. Kollar '88; 7/20
 Norman E. Emery '89; 6/20
 Keith L. Garcia '89; 8/20
 Timothy R. Kepple '89; 5/20

We want to hear from you!

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- Email your news to sjblyst@IllinoisState.edu.

- Mail your news to Class Notes, Illinois State University, Campus Box 3100, Normal, IL 61790.

For additional information, contact Alumni Engagement at (309) 438-2586 or email alumni@IllinoisState.edu.

Notes beginning with the Class of 1990 can be found online at

IllinoisState.edu/Magazine.



Birds on Safari

Kristi (Majewski) Bina '99, MBA '02, of Shirley, *left*, and Carol (Hill) Myers '70 of Towanda attended the University decades apart but still have a special Redbird bond. The two met at WildCountry in Normal and have been travel companions for more than a decade. From scuba diving to skiing, they are checking off their bucket lists. Their most recent trek was to Kenya in early 2020, where they displayed their ISU flag and Flat Reggie.

Timothy J. Lualen '89; 9/20
 Charles M. Payne '89; 10/20
 Doug T. Pfaff '89; 6/20
 Douglas Shankel '89, M.S. '92; 4/20
 Debbie L. (Miller) Shankster Schneider, M.S. '89; 9/20
 Sherry L. Wagner-Henry '89, MBA '95; 5/20
 Meshele (Glass) Wyneken '89; 8/20

90s

Mark A. Elston '90; 6/20
 Ian T. Howley '90; 8/20
 Erma M. (Rhoda) Kahle '90, M.S. '92; 7/20
 Michael J. Long '90; 11/14
 Ted A. Peterson '90; 8/20
 Amy M. (Rounds) Sexton '90; 7/20
 Donna M. (Harlow) McGee '91; 7/20
 Donald T. Hill Jr., M.S. '92; 5/14
 Christine E. (Baker) Ice '92; 2/15
 Lila J. McCulley, M.S. '92; 11/20
 Martin L. Angel '93; 6/20
 Gary L. Bonnell '93; 11/20
 John P. Murphy '93; 6/20
 Sarah J. Shipley '93; 10/20
 Bruce A. Krieg, MBA '94; 7/20
 Beth A. Fikar '95; 8/20
 Debra L. Bree '96; 8/20
 Gerald L. Schuler '96; 9/20
 Steven K. Self '96; 7/20
 Hugh R. Williams '97, M.S. '99; 5/20

Dale E. Mason Jr. '98; 7/20
 Juanita M. Troncozo '98; 8/20
 Lori A. Zimmerman '98; 9/20
 Judith J. (Kerr) Mathes, M.S. '99; 2/15
 Shon D. Mueller '99; 6/20

00s

Mark A. Montalbano '01; 7/20
 Kyle W. Updegraff '01; 3/16
 Christina M. Weber-Rodriguez '01; 5/20
 Mark E. Angelcyk, M.A. '03; 5/20
 Michael E. Peterson Jr. '03; 7/20
 Chad C. Coffman '04; 8/20
 Diana L. Oliver, MSW '04; 7/20
 Timothy L. Heuer '05; 8/20
 Andrea R. (Smith) Mammen '05; 9/20
 Jordan R. Sovereign '05; 8/20
 Michael F. Lumpp '07; 7/20
 Kenneth D. Broy '08; 2/17

10s

Daniel H. Evans '10; 5/20
 Kevin D. Krigbaum '11; 5/20
 Patricia "Pattie" A. Quint, M.S. '11; 5/20
 Matthew T. Olson '12; 7/20
 Amy M. (Follmer) Wyant '14; 8/20
 John J. Coners '15; 7/20
 David R. Martino '15; 5/20
 Joseph R. Thielen '16; 5/20



Siblings David, Charlotte, and Fred Roberts in 2010

Thanks *to* You

Charlotte Roberts ensured that the legacy of her brother, Politics and Government Professor Dr. Fred Roberts, lives on at Illinois State following his death on February 26, 2019. She used funds from his estate to establish the Dr. Frederick and Carlene Roberts Memorial Internship Fund in honor of Fred's integrity and dedication to his students.

A reserved individual, Fred was the perfect foil for his engaging wife Carlene, who mentored many in her social work career. Fred was equally dedicated to teaching and mentoring. Before joining ISU's faculty in 1968, he attended Princeton University on a Woodrow Wilson Fellowship. He earned his master's and doctoral degrees there, while completing his doctoral research at the Brookings Institute. He taught at the University of Delaware in Newark.

Roberts was a founding faculty member of ISU's Politics and Government Department. He developed a course on collective decision-making, which he taught until his retirement in 2000. He was an instructional innovator, creating a legislative simulation as a teaching device. He was director of the internship program, sponsored the Model Illinois Government Program, and served as graduate director.

"Knowing that about him, I felt that providing funding for internships was the best way to acknowledge and continue my brother's lifework," said Charlotte. The fund will enable students to gain internship experiences and embrace civic engagement opportunities.

"I'm pleased to know that internship students will be able to feel his influence," said Charlotte, who noted that Fred looked for results instead of recognition.

Politics and Government Department Chair Dr. T.Y. Wang worked closely with Fred, who was a colleague and friend. "Dr. Fred Roberts was a committed educator. He had a modest demeanor and was extremely generous to others," said Wang. "He worked hard to offer students unique and impactful learning opportunities over his many years of service to the Department of Politics and Government. We want to thank Fred's sister, Charlotte Roberts, for establishing the Dr. Frederick and Carlene Roberts Memorial Internship Fund to honor his legacy."

Support your passion at ISU and impact a student's Redbird experience. You can make a gift online at IllinoisState.edu/Giving or by calling (309) 438-2294.



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Worth the wait

The work involved to revitalize the Bone Student Center over a four-year period was completed early in the spring semester. All three floors were updated to address what students need to enrich their campus experience. One change is creation of the Birds' Nest, which junior business administration major Caitlin Gorski uses as a place to study. Its vibrant colors reflect the energy of the revamped building that houses new restaurants, an expanded bookstore, and an atrium with an impressive Quad view.